

*Hafa Adai!*

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIV, Issue No. 62

FRIDAY MARCH 28, 2014

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**INSIDE**

**WORLD**



Ukraine believes the U.N. General Assembly will adopt a resolution reaffirming the country's territorial integrity.

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**OFFBEAT**



Burger King Baby finally finds her birth mom after just three weeks of a Facebook campaign.

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## Casino amendment bill heads to Inos

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Senate passed by a vote of 5-4 last night a bill amending a one-week-old Saipan casino gaming law, but not after some senators voiced their concerns on what they describe as still problematic provisions of the bill as well as its placement on session calendar for action just a few hours after receiving copies of it from the House. The bill now heads to Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who is expected to sign it into law.

See **CASINO** on **Page 4**

### ON MILITARIZATION OF PAGAN

#### Northern Islanders consider class action suit

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**  
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REPORTER

Former residents of the Northern Islands and those who have ties to the area are threatening to file a class action lawsuit against the U.S. military if the planned militarization of Pagan pushes through.

This consensus was made following a two-hour town hall meeting Wednesday night at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan where those who attended also said they feel neglected.

"We are mostly looking at getting the focus together and pushing the interest they [Northern Islands] have for islands

See **NORTHERN** on **Page 4**



## CNMI accepts US transfer of mineral rights

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

» **Faeth honored to share historic day with Commonwealth**

Gov. Eloy S. Inos accepted on behalf of the CNMI people yesterday the U.S. Department of the Interior's patent conveying to the Commonwealth oil, gas, and other mineral deposit rights found in its 3-mile submerged lands, marking another milestone in the islands' 38-year

relationship with the United States. Visiting U.S. Interior assistant secretary for insular areas Lori Faeth hand-delivered the patent—signed by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on March 13—for the governor to accept and sign.

The signing was held before a crowd of local and federal officials on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

"I'm happy to accept this grant of rights from the Department of the Interior secretary and I will accept it on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth," the governor said as he signed off on the document.

Prior to the signing of the patent, Faeth

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, signs and accepts on behalf of the CNMI people a patent conveying to the Commonwealth oil, gas and other mineral deposit rights, while visiting U.S. Interior assistant secretary for insular areas Lori Faeth, right, applauds, in yesterday morning's ceremony on Capital Hill.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

announced Interior grants totaling over \$10.265 million that will go to different programs and services for the CNMI in-

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## OIA: Governors must enforce findings of ABC report

» **5-phase study requires \$1M CIP funding for each phase beginning 2015**

» **PSS reveals over \$11M worth of deferred maintenance, repairs**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Office of Insular Affairs Director Nik Pula said yesterday that governors of Guam, the CNMI, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are expected to implement the findings of

an OIA-commissioned study that identified the needed repairs and renovations of school facilities in insular areas.

The study, "Assessment on Buildings and Classrooms," was conducted by the U.S. Army Corps last year and included five phases that require governors to allocate no less than \$1 million for each

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**CPA airport revenue bond gets positive 'B-' rating, too. PAGE 5**  
**Man gets 5 years in prison for groping girl, 13. PAGE 18**



## Local



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## Groundbreaking for Kalabera Cave improvement set today

Visiting U.S. Interior assistant secretary for insular areas Lori Faeth will join Gov. Eloy S. Inos in leading this morning's groundbreaking for the Kalabera Cave improvement project funded through capital improvement projects money from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

Kalabera Cave is a historic site on Saipan's northern part that is frequented by visitors and residents. During World War II, for example, it was a hiding place for civilians and soldiers.

The governor, along with special assistant for management and budget Vicky Villagomez, made the announcement of the groundbreaking at yesterday's signing of a patent conveying to the CNMI rights to oil, gas and mineral deposits.

Faeth, who is on Saipan for the very first time, said the Interior is "pleased" about the 9am

ceremony for the cave improvement project "that was funded through CIP funds."

The project, according to figures from the CIP Office requested yesterday, could reach \$940,000.

Carl Castro, of the CIP Office, said this includes a \$140,372 contract for the construction of the chain link fence, latte huts replica and prayer house.

Two other contracts will be awarded at a later time "and upon additional funds identified," he added.

The project designer is SS-FM-Saipan, while the construction contractor is USA Fanter Corp. Ltd. The contracting agency is the Office of the Governor's Capital Improvement Program.

The project is part of the CNMI's Destination Enhancement and Economic Plan. *(Haidee V. Eugenio)*

## Businessman arrested in PH freed; prosecutors find complaint flawed

Takayuki Umeda, a Japanese businessman who was recently arrested with six other persons in the Philippines for alleged human trafficking, was released early this week after the country's Department of Justice found the police complaint to be flawed.

According to news reports in Manila, the DOJ ordered the release of Umeda, two other Japanese nationals, and four Filipinos, after investigating prosecutors found that the police failed to submit evidence in filing the charges of violations of Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012.

The DOJ panel, however, did not immediately dismiss the charges and instead gave the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission an opportunity to present evidence at a hearing on April 2.

DOJ only dismissed the separate charge of illegal possession

of firearm against the defendants after the police admitted that the confiscated .22-caliber revolver was not covered by the search warrant and failed to produce documents to show that the gun had no license, according to news reports.

Philippine authorities arrested Umeda and six others during a raid last March 17 on an English learning school in Pangasinan province, which was reportedly a front for an online dating service for foreigners.

The learning center's female Filipino employees were allegedly used to entice older Japanese men to go to the country for sex in exchange for money.

In 2005, a CNMI Superior Court jury acquitted Umeda and Club Micronesia of 18 charges of employing illegal aliens and exploiting an underaged exotic dancer. The court also dismissed two counts of unlawful exploitation filed against Umeda and Club Micronesia. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



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# DPL nixes CPA request for public domain on two lots

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has rejected a request of the Commonwealth Ports Authority to hold off issuing lease agreements for two areas that CPA has identified as vital for its future seaport expansion.

CPA seaports facilities chair Benigno Sablan disclosed this development following a conversation with DPL Secretary Pete Tenorio, whom he described as unwilling to entertain the proposal.

"I have spoken with the DPL secretary and he's not amenable to granting public domain on areas we identified. They're going to go ahead and sign a lease agreement with Pacific Marine," according to Sablan.

CPA wants easy access to two specific public lands that it is eyeing for potential seaport expansion and earlier urged the public lands agency to consider its appeal for the island's economic growth.

The ports authority is seeking authority to take control of both the center properties on Indus-

trial Drive and the Able Dock, areas that CPA claimed are viable for seaport activities. The agency is interested in the property south and adjacent to Able Dock where a company was given a permit to use the area.

Following the DPL's latest decision, Sablan said that CPA must continue its communication with Public Lands to consider the ports authority's access to the properties.

By next year, he said, CPA

staff must communicate with DPL so ensure that the ports authority's access is included in the lease agreement to be issued to the tenants.

"For any other lease agreements, DPL prefers they lease it

out for proper programs," added Sablan.

The request for public domain on the two sites has been outstanding for about eight years.

Saipan Tribune learned that anything above 5 hectares has to seek the governor's approval and the Legislature in granting public domain.

## HCPL board affirms mandate to regulate health care professions

The Health Care Professions Licensing Board is advising the public that no person shall practice any health profession under its purview in the CNMI without a valid license issued by the board.

These professions include acupuncturists, chiropractors, baccalaureate social workers, masters social workers, clinical social workers, medical laboratory technicians, radiologic technicians, dentists, dental hygienists, dental therapists, dental assistants, embalmers, EMTS/paramedics, midwives, optometrists, pharmacists, pharmacy interns, physical therapists, pharmacy technicians, physical therapy assistants, physicians, physician assistants, podiatrists, professional counselors, mental health counselors, mental health counselor associates, and psychologists (clinical).

The board also regulates and issues licenses to operate clinical/medical laboratories and pharmacies. It will soon also regulate the practice of

audiologists, occupational therapists, respiratory therapists, speech and language pathologists and any other health care professions.

The only profession it has no authority over is the practice of nursing.

It may discipline a person or licensee for engaging in dishonorable, unethical or unprofessional conduct; negligence, incompetence or misconduct in the practice of a health care profession; making a false, fraudulent, deceptive or misleading statement in advertising; persistent, deliberate over-charging or over-treating of patients; or without having a valid license from the board, using any health care profession titles.

If you have any questions about the licensure and regulation of health care professions in the Commonwealth, contact the Health Care Board at (670) 664-4809, by email at bpl@pticom.com, or visit to its office located at Bldg. 1242, Pohnpei Ct., Capital Hill, Saipan. (PR)

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MINERAL

From Page 1

cluding for capital improvement projects, education training, Compact-impact, and Breadfruit Initiative.

The governor thanked Interior for the grant funds and assured that the CNMI will put them to good use.

‘Historic day’

Faeth said she’s “honored” to share this “historic” day with the CNMI, referring to the transfer and acceptance of mineral rights.

Office of Insular Affairs director Nik Pula echoed Faeth’s statement.

“This is a great historic event...Francisco [Taitano] and I are pleased to join our assistant

secretary be part of history,” Pula said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) separately said yesterday he congratulates the governor “who accepted this transfer of oil, gas, and mineral rights on behalf of the people of the Northern Marianas.

“Thanks to Senators Wyden and Murkowski and to Chairman Doc Hastings and Ranking Member Defazio, who helped me get this law enacted. And especially thanks to Reps. George Miller and Nick Rahall and the late Phil Burton, who had the foresight to add these mineral rights to the Territorial Submerged Lands Act some 30 years ago,” Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan worked with other members of Congress to move

a CNMI submerged lands bill, which President Barack Obama signed into Public Law 113-34 in September 2013.

Faeth thanked the governor and the CNMI “for the opportunity to carry out the mandate provided under Public Law 113-34.”

“In my capacity as acting assistant secretary of Interior for insular areas, I’m honored to join you as the Department conveys to you—the people of the Northern Mariana Islands—the rights to oil, gas and minerals deposited within the 3 miles submerged lands which you now control,” Faeth said.

The governor, before signing off on the document, thanked on behalf of the CNMI people, Interior Secretary Jewell for her leadership in making the transfer of mineral rights.

Inos also acknowledged Sablan’s effort to “initiate legislation” on the submerged lands bill, as well as House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) for inquiring about the status of the submerged lands mineral rights during his visit to Washington, D.C.

Sablan earlier prompted Jewell to take action on the transfer of oil, gas, and other mineral rights to the CNMI.

‘What’s out there?’

The governor, in an interview later, said the CNMI can now seek out seafloor mining companies that may be interested in “harvesting” any of the minerals within the CNMI’s jurisdiction.

Canada-based Nautilus Minerals and Australia-based Neptune Minerals were earlier

reported to be interested in or applying for mining exploration licenses to mine in the area.

Inos said to date, the CNMI has not received any inquiry.

“We had learned of some interests from some marine miners but we don’t know if their interest is within our submerged lands or beyond. We’re going to get in touch with them if they have interest in our jurisdiction,” Inos told reporters.

Seafloor mining can bring in millions of dollars into the CNMI coffers.

When asked whether Interior would be willing to fund any exploration within CNMI jurisdiction, Faeth said, “At this time, we don’t have funds available for that.”

A U.S. Geological Survey report on marine mineral resource

es of the Pacific islands said mineral deposits that do, or are likely to occur within CNMI exclusive economic zones include “cobalt-rich iron-manganese crusts, iron-manganese nodules, phosphorite deposits, epithermal gold deposits, hydrothermal manganese, and iron oxide deposits.”

The others include “hydrothermal manganese and iron oxide deposits, hydrothermal polymetallic sulfides, insular and lagoonal phosphorite deposits, shallow-water sand, and gravel deposits, and shallow-and deep-water precious coral.”

Pula said the USGS study may have been done a long time ago. Funding for a new study, he said, can be requested through technical assistance, “provided that there is available funding.”

OIA

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project phase.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Pula said that OIA’s focus is on a healthy and safe environment for schoolchildren, and that should be among the top priorities of each insular government.

“We asked the U.S. Army Corps to do this study and we went to four territories: Guam, American Samoa, Virgin Islands, and the CNMI. They

have different sorts of maintenance and renovation needs, but the things we focused on first is the ‘health and safety’ to make sure that we have a safe environment for schoolchildren. And because we’re the one that commissioned the ABC report, we’re hoping that the governors would comply with it,” Pula said after a two-hour closed-door meeting with local education leaders at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Pula cited the unique situation of insular areas where “decay is very fast” due to the salty ocean

waters surrounding the islands. “The idea behind this study is not only to look after the schools...but to institutionalize the maintenance,” he said.

In the case of the CNMI, Pula disclosed that OIA has been providing CIP funding ranging from \$8 million to \$10 million each year. For the ABC report to be enforced, governors can use both “future” and “unutilized” CIP monies from Interior, he added.

“I know that there’s never enough money to do everything, so prioritizing is very im-

portant,” said Pula, adding that allocation of how much money would go to implement the ABC findings depends entirely on the governor.

“[Funding for the ABC report implementation] basically will come from the future CIP [for each insular areas] because we just started it [study]. But if there are some [CIP] monies not being used, the government can utilize that...it’s up to the governor,” he explained. “OIA would love to have them [governors] follow the ABC report.”

Yesterday morning, OIA

awarded the CNMI government \$7.4 million in CIP funds.

Today, Pula is scheduled to meet with the local CIP office to look into the status of federally funded initiatives. Although he cannot immediately say if there remains “unutilized CIP monies” in the CNMI, Pula recalled that there was a substantial amount marked as “unused” in previous years.

“In the past we had concerns about the moving of the projects, maybe in the arena of \$30 million. They’ve been allocated to certain projects, but we just

don’t know yet how fast it is moving. That’s what we will find out tomorrow in our meeting with CIP,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan disclosed yesterday that PSS has over \$11 million worth of deferred maintenance.

“The direction of OIA is that the government of four insular areas will support the plan with no less than \$1 million each fiscal year for the next five years beginning fiscal year 2015,” she said.

NORTHERN

From Page 1

in the north. Because nothing is being done for the folks of the Northern Islands,” said Jerome Aldan of the Northern Islands Mayor’s Office.

He pointed out that Commonwealth laws also apply to the Northern Islands because they are part of the CNMI, yet “it seems like they treat the Northern Islands differently and are excluded from all these privileges...privileges like homesteads.”

“For many years the Northern Island folks are lost. They don’t know what is going on and how

to get their lands back prior to being exiled here to Saipan after the volcanic eruption,” Aldan added.

The Northern Islands Mayor’s Office earlier said that in the past 20 years alone, 18 applications for land for agricultural homestead for the Northern Islands have remained pending with the Department of Public Lands.

Aldan said that a census conducted in 1969 showed that Pagan was home to 49 residents. The oldest resident was born in 1903 while the youngest was born in 1968.

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council adviser William Torres, who also made a

presentation at the meeting, said that just recently the House of Representatives passed House Bill 18-108 to force DPL to issue homesteads to residents of the Northern Islands.

Northern Islanders Lino Olopai, Cecilia Kaipat Selepeo, Moses Castro, and others also expressed concerns about the future of Pagan.

Castro said that he was born in the Northern Island on Sept. 19, 1942. “I got married there and had three kids, but after the volcano erupted we were sent here,” he said.

Olopai said the government seems to be waiting for a bigger investor to develop the Northern Islands. He also highlighted the

clash between Western concept of ownership and the indigenous rights to their property.

“Like this slipper [that I’m wearing], do I need legal documents just to own this slipper? Do I need a lawyer to go through court to own this? Olopai said in Chamorro. “Why not the traditional way? This slipper will get passed on to my children, then it’ll pass on to their children, then generations to come. That’s the traditional way, our property needs to continue to get passed through the generation with no documents,” he added.

Selepeo told *Saipan Tribune* about her late father, Francisco Borja Kaipat, the first district

representative of the Northern Islands who was assassinated in April 1972.

“The following day we had no choice but to come to Saipan from [Pagan]. My mother was shot in the head. My brother who was 11 years old at that time was shot in the shoulder but he had to be brought to Guam,” she said. “But also because our mother was disabled, we had no choice but to stay here.”

She was born in Pagan in 1970 and has longed to go back to her birth island. Last year on August 2013, she finally managed to join a trip going to Pagan.

“To finally reach the place 42 years later brought back a lot

of memories. That’s why when I came back to Saipan after the trip I felt that I needed to get a property up there,” she said.

Now that she is in her 40s she is willing to go back to Pagan, which she described as a healing place.

Aldan said that it is sad to see that nobody is entertaining their concerns.

“It’s all a matter of justice to these folks, they’ve waited so many years. Some of our ancestors, elders, and some folks of the listed census for the Northern Islands are probably gone as we speak right now,” he said.

“Despite where you are in the Northern Islands, we are still in the CNMI,” he added.

CASINO

From Page 1

House Bill 18-182, House Draft 6 passed the Senate at 6:52pm without any amendment.

Last night’s 5-4 vote is the same as the vote on the original bill, the first Saipan casino measure from the House that the Senate passed in at least four years.

The four who voted “no” to the casino amendment bill were Sens. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), and floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan).

The five “yes” votes were from Sens. Francisco Borja (Ind-Tinian), Joaquin Borja (Ind-Tinian), Victor Hocog (R-Rota), Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan), and President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

Senators initially voted to suspend rules to place some items on the session agenda, including the casino amendment bill authored by House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), also the author of the casino bill that became Public Law 18-38 on March 21.

Yumul pointed out that the amendment bill was transmitted to the Senate only at 11:22am, about three hours before the Senate’s scheduled 2pm session.

He reminded his colleagues that acting on the bill could violate the Open Government Act. But the Senate has been suspending its rules to include items on its agenda for immediate action, after most of the members support the rule suspension.

As with the original casino bill, members of the public and some lawmakers expressed

concern about the rushed manner in which the gaming bill was handled—without referral to committee or public hearings.

Taimanao asked her colleagues to have the bill undergo public hearings, just as her Fiscal Affairs Committee has scheduled, from March 31 to April 16, to no avail.

Senators didn’t start tackling the casino amendment bill until 5:56pm.

Manglona said while it was apparent that the bill would pass, he wanted to register his concerns on the provisions of the amendment measure.

“I wish we have more time to go over this legislation,” he told his fellow senators after going over what he considers problematic and ambiguous provisions. “It always helps to have more time to look at major bills. As what Del Benson men-

tioned, the issue is not whether you support or oppose casino, but whether you do it right.”

The Rota senator said he’s not comfortable voting on the casino amendment bill, which he said is once again “rushed.”

Both Manglona and Yumul cited the amendment bill’s provision that says in the event that an exclusive casino license is not issued within 90 days after the bill becomes law, “the Commission shall establish new application procedures.”

Yumul said this “opens the floodgates,” while Manglona said he hopes all the requirements would still apply, including the “initial” investment of \$2 billion, the taxes, and the license fee.

Manglona said the bill still does not put a timeline as to when the 2,000 guest rooms should be built.

He said Rep. Trenton Conner’s (Ind-Tinian) proposed amendment that was defeated on Wednesday night to allow Rota and Tinian casino investors to avail of the qualifying certificate tax abatement program was meant to “level the playing field” once Saipan’s casino industry is established.

Manglona said he hopes that this will be considered in future amendments to the casino law.

“And CNMI procurement laws should be applied and adhered to if not specifically exempted by this law,” he added.

Before going into the vote, the president called for a short recess.

The governor, in an interview hours before the Senate session, said he had not seen the floor amendments that the House adopted on Wednesday.

He did say, however, that the

addition of the Public School System to the list of items that will benefit from gross revenue tax may be “political posturing,” considering that PSS, he said, is always guaranteed to be funded by general fund.

Gross revenue tax from the Saipan casino industry will also be the source of funding to pay the interest on retirement contribution withdrawals, land compensation, and medical services.

The bill may be transmitted to the governor as early as today, exactly a week after Inos signed Demapan’s casino bill into law.

Marianas Economic Research and Development Foundation executive director Russell Schow, during public comment, told senators that the \$15 million casino license fee under the new law is “extraordinarily low,” comparing it to the fee imposed in other jurisdictions.



# CPA airport revenue bond gets positive 'B-' rating, too

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority got another positive grade for its airport revenue bonds.

Fitch Rating issued this week a "BB-" rating for CPA's approximately \$30.4 million of outstanding seaport revenue bonds. Outlook is stable. For the airport revenue bonds, the global rating agency gave the ports authority "BB-" rating; outlook remains positive. This "BB-" rating is for the approximately \$13 million of outstanding senior series 1998A airport revenue bonds.

The airport bonds are secured by a pledge of gross airport revenues generated by the operations of the airport, including passenger facility charges.

In a news release from Fitch, it said the recent approval by the Federal Aviation Administration to allow the airport to utilize 100 percent of passenger facility charge collections for debt service provides enhanced cushion to manage revenue levels to support financial obligations while keeping airline costs stable. Fitch notes that CPA board resolution No. 2011-01 now designates all PFC revenues as gross airport revenues.

It was noted that as a result of the airport's improved operations, conservative capital structure, and flat debt service profile, Fitch projects coverage to remain at or above covenant through a five-year forecast period, even when only the eligible portion of PFCs for debt service are applied.

According to the rating agency, CPA's capital improvement plan is also modest at \$44 million through fiscal 2015 and predominantly funded through FAA grants with no future anticipated debt issuances.

"CPA's capital improvement plan through 2015 is modest at \$44 million and 95 percent of the funding comes from FAA grants. The largest project is a \$17 million Regional ARFF Training Facility that should be a revenue-generating project for the airports. Other projects include: rehabilitating the 30-year-old runway, installation of new generators for the terminals, tower, and airport fire station, and various renovations to the international and commuter terminal. These are in addition to several future anticipated projects. Management indicated that no future debt issuances are currently planned although the authority does not detail a longer range capital improvement plan so

some uncertainty remains over facility needs and funding," states the Fitch release.

CPA was also found having a conservative capital structure. "The authority maintains 100 percent fixed-rate, fully amortizing debt. Annual debt service payments are essentially level and final maturity on the bonds is in 2028. Debt structure: stronger."

The "Days Cash on Hand" has also grown significantly over the past four years to 352 days in fiscal 2013.

Fitch indicated the following areas that it marked "rating sensitivities" for CPA: continued improvements in the underlying service area economy and the airports'

ability to maintain or grow its current traffic base; sustained favorable trends in balance sheet liquidity and strong financial ratios over the next year would strengthen CPA's credit quality; material de-

clines in enplanement volume or in coverage, resulting from increased operating expenses and/or the CPA Board's failure to sufficiently apply the full collection of PFCs as gross

revenues, could pressure the current rating; and identified longer-term capital projects that would rely on debt issuances for funding could lead to rating pressure.

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## Judge orders King's co-counsels to attend Crisostomo murder trial

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has ordered one of attorney Janet H. King's two co-counsels from Guam to attend the upcoming jury trial of Joseph A. Crisostomo, who faces charges for the murder of bartender Emerita Romero.

In an order on Wednesday, Camacho said that one of King's co-appointed counsels—Jeffrey Moots and F. Randall Cunliffe—must be present with King from jury selection to closing arguments to assure that Crisostomo will have effective assistance of counsel at the April 7 trial.

The judge said that Moots and Cunliffe may take turns attending the proceedings; however, one of the more-experienced attorneys is to be present at all times.

King earlier asked the court to appoint the two Guam lawyers as her co-counsel, as she lacks experience in trying criminal cases.

Moots used to serve as chief prosecutor for the CNMI Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division. Cunliffe has tried several felony criminal cases, including homicides, in the CNMI, Guam, and Palau.

In his order, Camacho said that parties in the case raised the concern during a pretrial conference last Friday that Moots and Cunliffe intend not to attend the trial.

Camacho said he appointed the co-counsels following a hearing on April 10, 2013, during which Moots appeared telephonically and represented that he and Cunliffe were willing, and felt that it was important, to assist King in the representation of Crisostomo due to the defendant's right to effective assistance of counsel, and

King's lack of prior experience as lead counsel on any homicide case.

Camacho said Moots stated that it was their intention, if necessary, to appear before the court as defendant's counsel.

The OAG charged the 40-year-old Crisostomo with first-degree murder, kidnapping, sexual assault in the first degree, robbery, theft, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Romero reportedly got into a car that she mistook for a taxicab near her house in Garapan on Feb. 5, 2012. Two days later, Federal Bureau of Investigation agents found her body at the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque/As Matuis.



Crisostomo

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# OIA: PSS role model for Micronesian public schools

»PSS awarded nearly \$500K for teachers', administrators' professional devt

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Impressed with what they have learned from a two-hour meeting with local education officials yesterday noon, visiting officials from the U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs made known OIA's desire to replicate some initiatives of the CNMI Public School System in other Micronesian school districts.

"We had almost two hours of very good dialogue. This is a great [opportunity] because we had an exchange of ideas. We learned many things how schools are doing here and their status. And I can say we're really impressed!" said OIA director Nik Pula after emerging from the closed-door meeting with members of the Board of Education and PSS leadership team. He was joined at the meeting by acting assistant secretary for insular areas Lori Faeth.

Pula disclosed that OIA is looking at making the CNMI-PSS a role model in Micronesian school districts where many of its initiatives will be "replicated" in the Pacific region.

Despite the challenges faced by the school system,



U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs acting assistant secretary Lori Faeth, right, and director Nik Pula, second left, are seen engaged in separate conversations with Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero, and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan. The group spent two hours in closed-door meeting yesterday at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Pula acknowledged the clear evidence of success in PSS' mission and goals.

"I asked them [PSS and board] on ideas how we can help other areas mostly in the FSM [Federated States of Micronesia]. So today, we engaged in sharing those ideas," he said.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero, along with other board members, also affirmed their commitment to help OIA in helping Micronesian public schools.

Faeth and Pula also informed

education officials yesterday about the approval of their grant application submitted to OIA in May last year.

In a letter read to officials yesterday, Pula announced the awarding of \$473,367 in CIP funds for use in providing professional development trainings to PSS teachers, teacher aides, and school administrators.

"This partial funding is provided for priorities 1 through 5 as outlined in the CNMI-PSS proposal on May 26, 2013," states the letter,

which was presented yesterday to local officials.

According to Pula, OIA carefully reviewed the PSS grant application and made it a priority for assistance. He said this is only the beginning of a closer collaboration with the school system.

"The last two years, we focused on the public hospital because of its situation. This 2014, we decided that we're going to focus on education because that's two areas that we always look at. So we're hoping

this is just a beginning," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, PSS can now move ahead and plan for more professional development for its staff, teachers, and school administrators.

She said McREL will be tapped to provide the trainings.

"That amount is really something we certainly can use to continue to improve the school district's personnel and we're very thrilled with this good news," said Sablan.

## Guam police say more full-time officers needed

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam police say more full-time officers and more volunteers are required to meet the needs of the public on the island.

Police officers respond to 3,300 calls for help in any given month, *Pacific Daily News* reported.

There are now 298 full-time officers on the department, 120 civilian reservists and 30 volunteers, according to police. Altogether, 400 full-time officers and more volunteers are needed to oversee the island, officials said.

Police spokesman A.J. Balajadia said additional officers are most needed in detective positions and on patrol shifts.

Gov. Eddie Calvo last month committed to hiring 100 new police and corrections officers by the end of the year. Police, however, said the Guam force would still fall short of the numbers needed.

According to police, more than 32,800 police cases were listed as being open or suspended between 2008 to earlier this month.

Of those cases, nearly 12,300 open cases were assigned to the criminal investigation division. The time allotted for almost 60 percent of those cases under the statute of limitations has expired, police said. Balajadia said the department's case-clearing rate typically ranges between 30 and 40 percent.

The suspended cases total more than 20,500.



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By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

# Manglona: Death threat is no joke

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona deems serious the death threat Daniel A. Castro made to a confidential source during a purported drug transaction and ordered that he be kept detained.

The meaning of Castro's words themselves is clear, said Manglona, referring to the threat the defendant made to the confidential source.

Manglona's order on Wednesday affirms U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy's decision to detain Castro pending trial.

Defense counsel Timothy Bellas had argued that the context—the three persons in the videotape are laughing—takes the edge off the threat.

Manglona, however, noted that the context includes the

tone of Castro's voice and the look on his face, and those convey a threat.

"The fact that if defendant were released his activities could be monitored closely, and he would be the first to come under suspicion if the CS were harmed, does not adequately mitigate the risk," she said.

Manglona said that persons involved in the methamphetamine or "ice" trade, whether as dealers or users or both, cannot be counted on to act rationally when they are under the influence.

Castro was one of seven persons arrested last month for alleged distribution of "ice." The indictment charged him with four counts of distribution of methamphetamine. He

pleaded not guilty.

At a hearing on Feb. 26, Kennedy ordered Castro's continued detention after finding that no condition would reasonably assure the community's safety if he is released.

The factors that Kennedy considered included the weight of the evidence that Castro sold "ice" from his home on four occasions; his criminal history, including a 2004 conviction of conspiracy to traffic a controlled substance; and "credible threats made on Nov. 6, 2013, to [the confidential source] that he will kill CS if CS is working at the direction of law enforcement."

On March 10, Castro, through counsel Bellas, asked the court to review Kennedy's detention order and release

him on certain conditions.

Bellas offered new evidence—the audio and video recording of the purported Nov. 6 drug transaction, disclosed by the U.S. government after the detention hearing—which he believed showed that the alleged threat to the confidential source was not credible.

Bellas said it is apparent that the persons depicted in the video are well known to each other and that the "threat" was made in a joking context or atmosphere.

The lawyer said all three people who are depicted in the video, one of whom is the confidential source, were laughing at the time the alleged threat is made.

Bellas also disclosed that Castro's wife had just had a

phone landline put in at their residence, which would make electronic home monitoring feasible.

Assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy disagreed and submitted a sealed copy of the recording and a transcript of the conversation translated from Chamorro to English.

Badawy said that during the Nov. 6 controlled buy in which Castro sold the confidential source a quantity of "ice," Castro threatened to kill the confidential source if he finds out he is working with the FBI.

Badawy said the threat, made in Chamorro, was captured by an audio/video recording device worn by the confidential source.

He said the confidential source informed the U.S. Drug

Enforcement Administration Task Force of the threat shortly after it happened and that the confidential source felt the threat was serious.

In her order, Manglona said she reviewed Kennedy's findings and conclusions and read the transcript of the Feb. 26 detention hearing. Manglona also viewed and listened to the recording of the Nov. 6 conversation between Castro and the confidential source.

Manglona said she has independently reviewed Kennedy's findings and conclusions and "agrees with them wholeheartedly."

The judge determined that the U.S. government has proved by clear and convincing evidence that no combination of conditions of release can reasonably assure the safety of the confidential source and the community.

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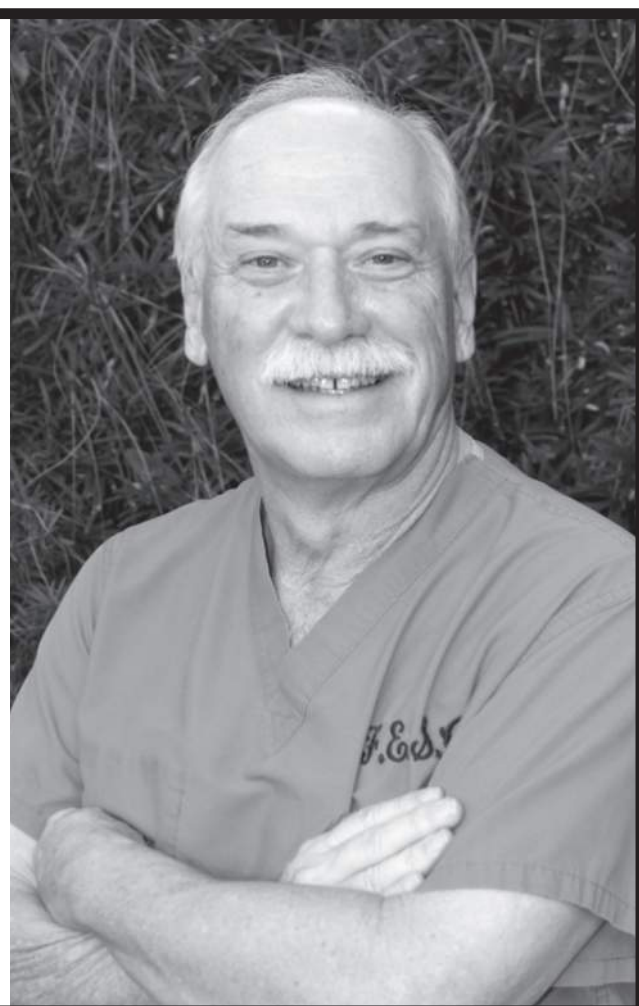


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# Ear, nose, and throat specialist trial a success

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is pleased to share about the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program, under the Division of Public Health's Maternal and Child Health Bureau. With the assistance of the Public School System's audiologist, the program was able to bring into the CNMI an Ear, Nose, Throat specialist, Dr. Charles Weingarten, from the mainland. Weingarten earned his medical degree from Tulane University, School of Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana, and completed his residency at Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, Illinois.

Weingarten is certified by the American Board of Oto-



Weingarten

laryngology. His specialty interests include the evaluation and treatment of sinus disease, the treatment of pediatric patients for chronic or recurrent ear infections, adenoid and tonsil disorders, as well as head and neck masses.

During his short visit, Weingarten was able to see over 60 infants and children, including 40 adults. He also provided surgery services to patients in critical need. A discussion on how to create a regular and continued ENT care is ongoing with Public Health. Anyone with ENT issue should first see their primary care physicians and see if a referral for specialist services is warranted. For more information, contact the Public Health at 236-8715. (CHCC)

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### BECQ office closure today

The Division of Environmental Quality and the Division of Coastal Resources Management under the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality will be closed today, March 28, 2014, due to a full-day employee professional development training. Normal operations will resume on Monday, March 31, 2014. If you have an emergency or require immediate assistance, call 664-8500 for DEQ and 664-8300 for DCRM. (PR)

### OPA on Tinian, Rota to receive filings

Staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Rota on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, and on Tinian on Thursday, April 10, 2014, to notarize and accept last-minute filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials. Filers on Rota may visit the Rota Mayor's Office on April 8 from 10:30am to 4pm. Filers on Tinian may visit the Tinian Mayor's Office on April 10 from 10:30am to 3:30pm. All filers are reminded to bring with them some form of photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services. For any inquiries or comments, contact OPA at 322-6481 or 6482. (OPA)

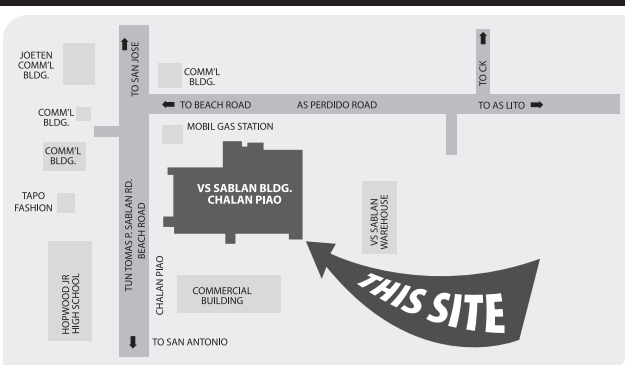
### Baseball league to host fundraiser for Micro Games

The Saipan Baseball League, in collaboration with Budweiser/Aloha Maid, Naked Fish Cafe, and KKMP, invites everyone to a "Happy Hour" Fundraiser to benefit the CNMI National Baseball Team's airfare expenses, holder of the last Micronesian Games Silver Medal in Palau. Lots of prizes will be given away to the lucky winners of a raffle that will be going on throughout the night!

The fundraiser will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at the Naked Fish Cafe in Susupe, from 5:30pm to 11pm. It will cost \$10 per ticket with one free drink (Budweiser/BudLite/Aloha Maid).

You may purchase your ticket(s) from any of the following individuals: Tony Rogolifoi (285-3966/234-6672), Bernard Cabrera (287-7252), Rose Igitol (287-1129), or at the following: MARPAC Office in Gualo Rai (234-7113), KKMP Radio (233-1440) and at the Naked Fish Cafe (235-3474). (PR)

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## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

**March 28, 2006**

### Work-hour cuts junked

Difficulty of implementation and allegations of inequity have prompted the Fitial administration to junk its work-hour reduction plan and push instead for a legislated salary cut. Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said yesterday that the governor's legal counsel is now working with the Legislature's lawyers to draft a bill that would implement a 10-percent salary cut across the board. A work-hour reduction would have meant smaller paychecks for government workers, but more time off. On the other hand, a salary reduction would simply mean smaller paychecks for the same amount of time at work.

### CUC now a division under DPW

Beginning today, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. ceases to be an autonomous agency and is now integrated as a division under the Department of Public Works. Gov. Benigno Fitial's first executive order that sought to reorganize the CUC takes effect today, 60 days after promulgation and transmission to the Legislature. The administration-controlled Legislature did not act on the governor's executive order, effectively giving its implied approval to the directive, explained CNMI press secretary Charles Reyes, Jr. With the integration of CUC into the Public Works Department, the administration sees no need to extend the governor's declaration that placed CUC under a state of emergency, which resulted in the suspension of the CUC board's powers.

**March 28, 2007**

### CHC is fined \$8K for waste violations

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has sanctioned the Commonwealth Health Center with an \$8,000 fine as part of a recent settlement over federal waste violations. In addition to the fine, EPA said that CHC will now fund an environmental project valued at \$17,000 for a mercury thermometer exchange program. Under the program, the hospital will purchase mercury-free thermometers, provide information to clinics and households in the CNMI about the mercury exchange program, and make mercury-free thermometers available at no cost to residents. Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez said the infraction was discovered following inspections conducted several years ago.

### OPA swamped with lawmakers' requests

The Office of the Public Auditor is being swamped with lawmakers' requests, including some that are not related to OPA's duties and responsibilities. Public Auditor Michael Sablan said yesterday that his office had received at least 12 requests from members of the Legislature since the year started. While some of the requests are for audits, many "do not appear to be within OPA's jurisdiction, area of responsibility and expertise," he said. OPA's main duty is to audit how public funds are received, managed, and disbursed.

**March 28, 2008**

### Survey: Underage drinking up

More than a quarter of children in the CNMI from grades sixth to twelfth have had their first drink of alcohol before the age of 13, according to the results of a survey conducted by the Public School System. The 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey results, released recently, showed that 27.4 percent of CNMI youth have had their first drink of alcohol other than a few sips before reaching 13 years old. This is an increase over the findings in a similar survey done in 2005, when it was found out that 26.1 percent of students from grades sixth to twelfth have had their first alcoholic drink before the age of 13.

### Admin, Stanley cast wary eye on Telesource offer

The Fitial administration expressed caution yesterday on an offer by Telesource CNMI Inc. to help solve the power crisis on Saipan. In the House of Representatives, a lawmaker urged his colleagues to be wary of the proposal. Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the proposal would be reviewed closely. But he underlined that the administration will make sure it does not become indebted to any particular firm with interest in a future privatization program. "We want to get away from any possible conflict of interest. We will consider all situations," said Reyes. He recalled that the administration failed in its previous attempt at privatizing the Saipan power system because of perceived favoritism.



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## WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMP

<b>Lotus Rice</b> <b>\$23<sup>99</sup></b> 50lbs	<b>Chicken Leg Quarter</b> <b>\$18<sup>99</sup></b> 22lbs	<b>Chicken Leg Quarter</b> <b>\$25<sup>99</sup></b> 33lbs	<b>Whole Chicken</b> <b>\$41<sup>99</sup></b> 30lbs
<b>Pork Spareribs</b> <b>\$22<sup>99</sup></b> 20lbs	<b>Babyribs</b> <b>\$21<sup>49</sup></b> 10lbs	<b>Ichiban</b> <b>\$10<sup>99</sup></b> CASE	<b>Max Butane Gas</b> <b>\$22<sup>99</sup></b> CASE

**| GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES |**

<b>Country Lime Lemonade, Tang Orange, Kool-Aid</b> <b>\$8<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>Coffee Mate</b> <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> 50 OZ.	<b>Folgers Coffee</b> <b>\$11<sup>99</sup></b> 33.3 OZ.	<b>Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn</b> <b>99¢</b> 15 OZ.	<b>Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn</b> <b>\$5<sup>79</sup></b> 106 OZ.	<b>Spam All Kinds</b> <b>\$2<sup>35</sup></b> EA. LIMIT 6	<b>Black Label Luncheon</b> <b>\$1<sup>79</sup></b> EA.. LIMIT 6	<b>Libbys Vienna Sausage</b> <b>65¢</b> 50Z.	<b>Ox &amp; Palm Luncheon Loaf</b> <b>\$1<sup>69</sup></b> 12 OZ.
<b>Chorizos</b> <b>\$1<sup>749</sup></b> 3 lbs.	<b>Campbells Chicken Noodle</b> <b>89¢</b> 10 OZ.	<b>King Chef Soybean Oil 5gal</b> <b>\$31<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>Del Monte Ketchup</b> <b>\$4<sup>69</sup></b> 64 OZ.	<b>White Sugar 2kg</b> <b>\$2<sup>79</sup></b> 2 KG.	<b>Fresco Vegetable Oil</b> <b>\$9<sup>99</sup></b> 1 GAL.	<b>Dragon Vegetable Oil</b> <b>\$9<sup>49</sup></b> 1GAL.	<b>Kikkoman Soy Sauce</b> <b>\$4<sup>59</sup></b> 1.6 L.	<b>Rota Water</b> <b>\$5<sup>99</sup></b> 350ML.

**| FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN |**

<b>Tilapia</b> <b>\$1<sup>09</sup></b> /LB.	<b>Milk Fish</b> <b>\$1<sup>69</sup></b> /LB.	<b>Bar S Jumbo Franks</b> <b>\$1<sup>29</sup></b>	<b>Bar S Ham</b> <b>\$18<sup>99</sup></b> 10LBS.	<b>Ground Beef</b> <b>\$12<sup>99</sup></b> 5LBS.	<b>Chamorro Sausage</b> <b>\$4<sup>49</sup></b>
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**| PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE |**

<b>Onion</b> <b>69¢</b> LB.	<b>Potato</b> <b>99¢</b> LB.	<b>Garlic</b> <b>99¢</b> /PACK	<b>U.S. X-Large Eggs</b> <b>\$2<sup>79</sup></b>
<b>Celo Apple</b> <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b> /BAG	<b>Orange</b> <b>\$1<sup>29</sup></b> LB.	<b>Honeydew/Cantaloupe</b> <b>\$1<sup>29</sup></b> LB.	<b>Korean Pear</b> <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> LB.

**| FAMILY BAG | FAMILY BAG | FAMILY BAG |**

Stew Chicken	\$6.99	Pork Chop	\$11.99
Chicken Leg Qtr	\$4.99	Pork Spareribs	\$6.99
Chicken Nuggets	\$11.99	Pork Butt Steak	\$9.99
Chicken Wings	\$12.99	Beef Ribeye	\$15.99
Turkey Tail	\$6.99	Beef Stew	\$12.99
Mackerel Fish	\$5.99	Beef Shank	\$12.99
Mackerel Pike	\$6.49	Beef Feet	\$4.99
Pork Hock	\$7.99	Beef Shortribs	\$19.99
Pork Adobo	\$9.99	Ox Tail	\$15.99
Pork Bellies	\$11.99	Smoked Ham Steak	\$12.99

**| NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD |**

<b>Dawn Dishwashing Soap</b> <b>\$8<sup>99</sup></b> 90 OZ.	<b>Joy Ultra</b> <b>\$1<sup>49</sup></b> 12.5 OZ.	<b>Purex</b> <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b> 50 OZ.	<b>Gain Liquid</b> <b>\$5<sup>99</sup></b> 50 OZ.	<b>Gain Powder</b> <b>\$15<sup>99</sup></b> 102 Loads	<b>Head &amp; Shoulders All Kinds</b> <b>\$5<sup>49</sup></b> 23OZ.	<b>Bounty Paper Towel</b> <b>\$19<sup>99</sup></b> 15 Rolls	<b>Charmin Basic Toilet Paper</b> <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> 12 ROLLS	<b>Foam Plates</b> <b>\$3<sup>29</sup></b> 50 CT	<b>Charmin Tissue (Regular)</b> <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> 24 Rolls
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**ONE STOP SHOP WITH THE LOWEST PRICES ON ISLAND!**



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXIV, Issue No.62Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
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## EDITORIAL

### As one mystery ends, another begins

One part of the mystery solved, another continues to build.

Malaysia's prime minister ended the rankst speculation with the announcement Monday that Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 was likely lost in the southern Indian Ocean.

It was, at least, a merciful gesture for loved ones of the 239 passengers and crew members after more than two weeks of agonizing over how and why a Boeing 777 could simply vanish—and whether they should hold out hope for a miracle.

A statement the airline sent to relatives said an analysis concluded that “none of those on board survived.” The heartbreaking news let the families move on to a new phase of their vigil.

Prime Minister Najib Razak's announcement also should end conjecture over certain implausible scenarios, like those envisioning a terrorist plot to spirit the airliner to a host country. Saturation media coverage of the disappearance has often resembled a carnival side show, with a CNN host at one point asking a panel of supposed experts whether the plane might have been swallowed by a black hole or a Bermuda Triangle-like force.

Black hole, no; immense swath of ocean, yes.

The detective work to piece together why the Beijing-bound plane went drastically off course is no closer to definitive answers, however.

Why did the plane's transponder abruptly go quiet as the plane neared Vietnamese airspace? Was there hidden meaning to the first officer's last words: “All right, good night?”

Was the crew overcome by a suddenly depressurized cabin? Why didn't passengers make any cellphone calls? Did lithium batteries in the plane's cargo hold ignite?

The answers are significant to both the flying public and an airline industry that desperately wants to address lingering doubts about safety. The Boeing 777 has a remarkable safety record, with only two serious mishaps among hundreds of aircraft over 19 years. If it has an undiscovered vulnerability, analyzing that could save lives in the future.

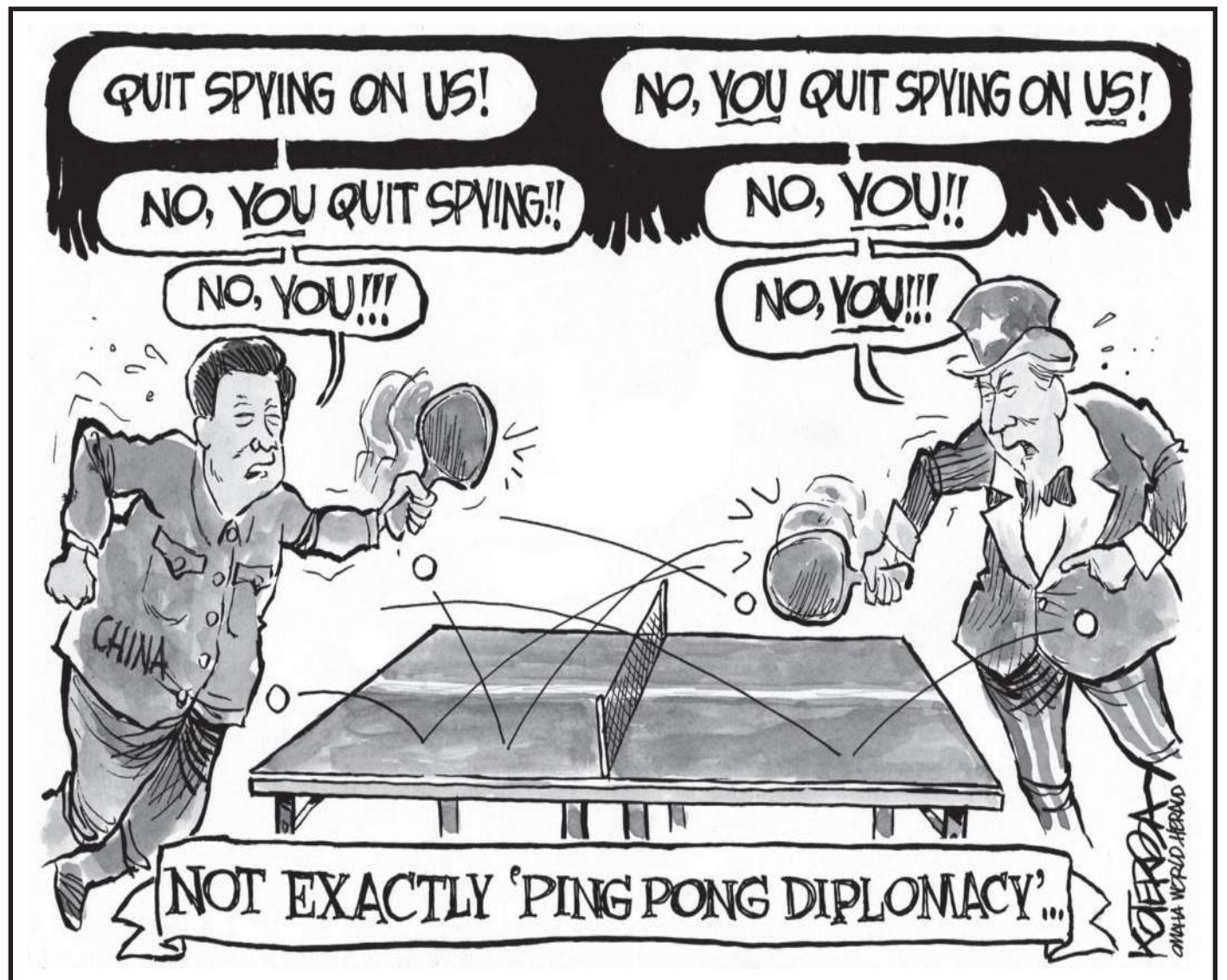
The search for wreckage has also produced remarkable cooperation among 26 countries—including some bitter antagonists—that have flooded the search zone with an armada of ships, as well as air and satellite surveillance.

We hope to see that international cooperation continue on the technology front. The lead nations should address how a wide-body aircraft bristling with electronics could indeed seem to enter a Twilight Zone.

They should address why, in today's live-streaming world, solving the mystery of Flight MH370 depends on retrieval of the aircraft's flight-data recorder. It shouldn't, entirely. The condition of the wreckage and the black box (which, by the way, is orange) will have important clues.

But technology leaders should advance satellite-based systems that could track an errant aircraft and pinpoint the location of a crash. In Flight MH370's case, that could have advanced the investigation by 16 days and cut short the maddening guesswork over the fate of those lost at sea.

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### Moscow's mirth

This began as a serious piece on the politics by sanctions, with the G8 getting reduced to G7 with the expulsion of Russia from its ranks. Then satirist Borowitz of the *New Yorker* wrote of how Putin announced the full attendance of the G1, with Putin declining the honor bestowed on him to be considered as its titular head!

The late Ruth Tighe once wondered, after reading a response from one of our readers on an article I wrote, if the writer ever heard of satire. Admittedly, I tend to be gentle and subtle when turning on my sardonic sense of humor (though undiplomatic colleagues call it caustic, but we are mild compared to the blatant in-your-face scathing rage normally shown in Western media, so satirical we tried to be and it seemed like only Ruth noticed).

After the EU neo-colonials and the US of A (dominated by neo-cons who has Obama's ear and an undying allergy versus Russia, according to a former national security adviser of Bush Sr.) cancelled the G8 meeting that was to be hosted by Russia at the Olympiad site of Sochi, and instead issued economic sanctions as a consequence of the referendum in Crimea, Russia “retaliated” by prohibiting the issuance of visas to three members of who would have been on Obama's entourage. The humor in the act was lost on the media and the policymakers of Brussels and Washington, D.C. No wonder Putin has been uncharacteristically full of chuckles of late.

This month is turning up to be full of “eMs.” We started with our own memorial circa 1945-2031, followed by the season's Mardi Gras, pleasantly watched the making of crepes at The Shack, the MH/MAS370 mystery with Malaysia finally pronouncing absolute loss of all lives, now with Moscow's mirth, and ending (spilling into April) with the March madness of NCAA basketball.

For now, it is the Mona Lisa smirk on Putin's face that is of consummate delight to us. So, we hear Putin saying, whereof does defensive EU-USA speak of after what it's NATO did with the breakup of Yugoslavia, particularly with the unilateral declaration of independence by Kosovo (some, possibly even Merkel, calls it Kosovo) after Bill Clinton was done interfering in the ethnic violence that followed minority-majority relations?

Ah, but the Western point is constitutionality. Say what? Pray tell, who is minding the constitutional store after the bullying out of the duly elected President of Ukraine who ran over to Russia when Kiev convulsed with street protests? Crimea, traditionally a part of Russia, handed over to Ukraine after Khrushchev (a Ukrainian) had a pleasant lunch and surprised everyone with the sudden shift in administrative lines (geographical lines were not altered since, at the time, Ukraine was part of the USSR), held a referendum that is deemed unconstitutional? Does anyone care to raise the question of Kiev's constitutionality?

By **JAIME VERGARA**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at [pinoypanda2031@aol.com](mailto:pinoypanda2031@aol.com).



The Kiev-Moscow axis had been indivisible since the 13th century. Kiev had been home to the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christendom and had served as the Kievan Rus kingdom capital until it was wise to move it to Moscow to administer the Tsar's far-flung regions of the Asian Far East.

Putin traces his continuing lineage to the Eastern Orthodox Church, not perhaps adhering to Ptolemy's cosmology, nor the theistic language of the tradition, but he crosses himself on occasion, if only for the cultural practice of his upbringing. The conflict in Crimea and Ukraine is not fundamentally a political one as it is a cultural disjunction of old patterns being pulled down by forces that wish to control finances, particularly as it relates to oil and other natural resources. (I hear murmurs of, “There goes Jaime with his politics of oil all over again,” so we will not go there.)

Still, a cursory glance at Ukraine shows the division of the folks west and east of the Dnieper River, and with the people between the two rivers of the Dnieper-Pietinis Bugas as the mainstay of the Kiev-Odessa axis. Not unlike any other large geographical configuration in the world, Ukraine is hardly homogenous. After NATO's handiwork on former eastern European lands after the 1991 Soviet Union breakup, we are not surprised that Putin is drawing the line in the sand.

Ukraine was nuclear hot in the USSR, and one of the areas where the U.S.-Russia cooperated was the dismantling of warheads and Ukraine's capability to produce weapons-grade uranium. The nuclear disarmament conference ongoing in Brussels—an early Obama initiative—is ironically getting some attention from an unlikely quarter: China. For all the language of containing Chinese possible military aggression in the China Sea, the PLAs have been good boys in making the manufacture, or the absence thereof, of weapons-grade uranium transparent. We cannot say the same of our northern neighbor Japan that constitutionally forsook war as an instrument of diplomacy but allegedly hoards 4,000 tons of weapons-grade uranium.

Maybe, the EU-US guardians of nuclear armaments might be harping at the wrong tree! As to constitutionality, say what?



## Noodle-level survival

On the heels of last week's article about dealing with foreign languages in the tourism industry, one of my pals noticed that I've gone all of 2014 without once sniveling about my Mandarin Chinese studies. I've been asked if I've finally given up on that gig, and whether or not my enthusiasm has been worn down by the years, the toil, and my very slow progress.

If the subject were merely one of personal interest, I wouldn't bother to mention it. But the topic isn't going away. Many people I know are striving to catch up to the Chinese-speaking market, notably in the hotel, restaurant, transportation, real estate, auto sales, advertising, legal services, and banking industries. That's not just a Saipan or Guam situation. It's a global one.

This language thing is really murky. For one thing, it's impossible to trust anyone's "self reported" ability in any language, so potential students who are surveying the landscape don't have a reliable index of the kind of progress they can expect to make. It's a shot in the dark.

I'll tell you what I've told my pals about studying Mandarin Chinese, at least at the casual, amateur level at which I've engaged it: This is one realm where setting goals might be problematic. You might want to consider jumping into the process without any expectations, with the one goal being to remain in the process without any goals.

I didn't have any pals who bellied up to Mandarin classes with me. So my peer group, such as it was, consisted of the few other "old people" I met in my classes. I tally four of us from a total of three semesters. Our experience was consistent enough for me to draw some conclusions from it.

We all sensed that our first two semesters were fruitful. But the

third didn't seem to deliver much progress for the effort. This effort consisted of laborious amounts of handwriting. With the fourth semester looming ahead, and more mountains of handwriting towering over us, we had to decide if we were going to hang with the classroom routine or abandon it in favor of independent efforts.

As we contemplated this, we did settle on a basic benchmark for our skill: lunch.

This was a full-circle concept for me. One reason I wanted to study Chinese was because I got totally stymied in a Taiwanese noodle shop one day when I was really hungry. I vowed to prevent such problems in the future. I didn't aspire to elegance; I merely aspired to some basic, street-level (or noodle-level) survival abilities.

So, lunch was my inspiration. And now lunch was our benchmark. How did we measure up?

Not well, as it turns out. After three semesters we realized that none of us separately, or, for that matter, none of us working together, could competently navigate a basic lunch order at a Chinese restaurant. Sure, we could say a few things, but we were still pretty hopeless.

When a waitress told us that we were pretty good for three days worth of study, and we told her we had studied for three semesters, not three days, she didn't believe us.

Yikes.

I'm sure the classroom approach has advantages. I'm not criticizing it. But those of us who had far lowlier standards and who just wanted street-level skills had to take our own paths. We had to come up with our own plans.

For me, since lunch was my inspiration, and since lunch became

## Focusing on what matters

Difficult the times may be, it becomes even more challenging resolving issues that matter most if focus is allowed to run out of the floodgates of thoughtful review.

As it is, we all must focus on how to skin the beast of insolvency so we move forward with a sense of certainty and purpose.

For instance, most of us aren't aware that healthcare is the most expensive ticket item in any government's budget. We take it for granted like some flyby cotton ball we dust off our shirt. Nah! It takes more than the casual attitude of *mañana*.

It definitely calls for planning the entire nine yards so we have a set of plans to follow and refine as we move forward. Without it, brace for more failure ahead; but then it's about the health of our people throughout the CNMI. You can't surrender to mediocrity nor leave things to chance, especially on matters pertaining to healthcare.

### Funding healthcare

Some have raised the idea of distributing interest earned on funds invested by the Marianas Public Land Trust to the indigenous people. It's a salivating though shallow suggestion that would gross about \$38 per family here. Let's explore how then could the \$2.5 million in interest earned help all indigenous people.

The Commonwealth Health Center is in need of fresh budgetary infusion to craft a plan that ensures healthcare delivery to the people of these islands. The cost of operations is huge. The greater hardship is when our people must pay hospital fees that are basically beyond their reach. This was forced upon the CNMI by Obamacare.

It's bad enough that retirees have seen their pension cut by 25 percent while health premiums have gone up by 40 percent, discounting spikes in deductibles and medication. Outside, the same folks must weather the high cost of power bills and recent increase in the price of basic food commodities. Wages and salaries have been stagnant for over a decade.

Now, when we talk of cost you will find at the other end of the stick what's known as the humanity of the issue. It's people standing

at the other side quizzing the hardship of securing healthcare given their inability to pay. It's beyond the reach of most folks here. Sure, healthcare would not be denied but there's fear and humiliation established in their mind that it's better to stay home.

For the sake of the health of our people, it's best that the \$2.5 million in interest earned on funds invested by MPLT is funneled to CHCC for the next 10 years. That it entails helping the indigenous people via their own funds, CHCC must not be required to pay it back.

I know the board of CHCC who are highly respected members of this community are equally wary of their fiduciary duties. Furthermore, they'd be pushing policies that would eventually ensure a healthier populace down the stretch.

At day's end, funneling the \$2.5 million to CHCC is basically an investment in the health of our people. This is how this should be perceived or bringing into the equation the humanity aspect of healthcare. Let's explore it for it is a far better alternative when we invest in the health of our people. *Si Yuus Maase!*

### Healthy spin-offs

When we help our people with the cost of healthcare, we would basically be returning over 65 percent of their money back into family pocketbooks. It would instantly allow recovery of some direly needed funds to boost the buying power of families throughout the villages.

I use myself as an example in what Obamacare has done to my rather simple life. In fact, it has complicated everything from dealing with power bills, health insurance, deductibles, medication, real estate loan, auto insurance, and the cost of basic goods. I am sure CHCC could device a mechanism how the \$2.5 million could cover increases inflicted against our people under a failed national health policy.

A step in this direction ought to ease the hardship everywhere on these isles. It's time to make useful spending of indigenous funds in an area that would ease both the troubled family pocketbooks and the need of CHCC to spread the \$2.5 million into making greater

size because fewer people are involved, but the Covenant must be changed, this could be a real problem. Regards, Frank

Response:

Voters and their families want to be employed in government. Candidates offer to hire their families to win the election. So chances of government hiring competent workers and reducing excess bodies is not in the agenda. Those in the campaign team will be rewarded regardless. The sad part is that we pay for the inefficiencies and costs of these unnecessary hires.

The court was petitioned five or so years ago to reduce the size of the legislature but it backfired because the court included the garment workers' population in the re-apportionment. As a result, we have more representatives in the House. Someone needs to petition the court again because the Legislature will not do it. It costs a lot of money to do this so no one is volunteering, even though this time around it will have a substantial effect since the 2010 Census shows

### By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed at [EdStephensJr.com](http://EdStephensJr.com). His column runs every Friday.



our fateful benchmark, I decided there's no use messing with destiny. So I made lunch my strategy as well.

I found a few friendly restaurants where the staff didn't mind helping me. I'd always take a small note pad with me, and every time I had lunch I'd emerge with a new word or maybe an important phrase, something relevant to the ordering process. That's all I wanted, just one word or phrase per visit. This took no more than a few seconds on any given day.

That's small progress for small effort but it kept me in the game.

Lunch, of course, isn't the only way to remain on the field. For example, one of my peers kept a simple journal (in Chinese) in which he'd note several highlights of his daily routine. Once a week he'd meet with a tutor who would review the journal with him.

I might give this technique a shot, since the lunch thing has run its course and I'd like to resume my native diet of bacon cheeseburgers.

Overall, my experience studying Mandarin Chinese, and that of the few peers I dealt with, was this: It's fun. It's interesting. It's difficult. It's powerful. It's elusive.

### By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



improvements on healthcare delivery. Guess what? We owe it to ourselves, right? It would ease a costly family expense most could ill afford. Let's do it!

### Health begins with self

Often, personal health issues elude us primarily because we shove it aside as though it doesn't matter. It reminds me of a survey taken in the '80s among families who were asked what on the list of obligations would they pay first.

Cable TV came in No. 1 with flying colors. Health cost ranked below 12. And, sadly, about the only time it matters to us is when catastrophic illness hits a member of the family. Nah! This doesn't have to be the case.

Your health and that of family members is all in the palm of your hands. You need to proactively promote and practice healthy habits from food to thrice weekly brisk walking. Turn it into a fun family thing where you enlist everybody's participation.

As much as I hate broccoli and celery, I have developed a taste for it, including drinking graded turmeric in slightly warm water for health reasons. Everything that I needed to do I do it myself just to be able to move about. It's good for your physical being.

The important thing to remember is that health begins with the self. Do it like family prayers. Do it today with your family proactively participating. The benefits are significant for each member who shakes a leg.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Downsizing government

As a follow up to a discussion at lunch last Saturday, I wrote several letters to friends regarding the downsizing of our government. It appears to me that the only way to get any action on this topic is to create a public outcry. The politicians will do nothing; they like their cushy jobs. Change must be done by the people (just like changing the last governor). If the people do not care about the waste and corruption in government the politicians won't either.

Here is an example of a letter I wrote:

Friends, when will the CNMI people start to talk about the huge size of their government? The cost and lack of functionality are well known and are really problems, but I never hear it discussed. I know that the legislators will never bring up the topic because it is their jobs that we want to discuss. Have you heard anything? Time is getting short to get downsizing the Legislature on the November ballot. You all have been there and you must know how to deal with this issue, we need action. The Senate may be the easiest to down-

a reduction in population that is still going down and we no longer have the garment factories.

The Senate is the hardest to downsize. It requires a change in the Covenant with Rota and Tinian's vote requiring a difficult percentage to garner a win approval so we just have to live with Rota and Tinian controlling the Senate. Surprisingly, two senators voted for the casino. This never happened before so hopefully young educated people will run for office and do things differently. But until then, we cannot hold our breath. From: Anonymous

CNMI people, the opinion given above is very much the reality of the CNMI. Many feel that it is hopeless to bring change to this government. Perhaps we should restructure and start over with a new, better system. The current system seems to be failing.

### Frank Stewart






Capital Hill, Saipan



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 76°	▲ 88° ▼ 76°	▲ 88° ▼ 76°	▲ 88° ▼ 76°	▲ 88° ▼ 76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲ 83 ▼ 78
Palau	Showers	▲ 82 ▼ 80
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 80
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 82 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 82 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 83 ▼ 80

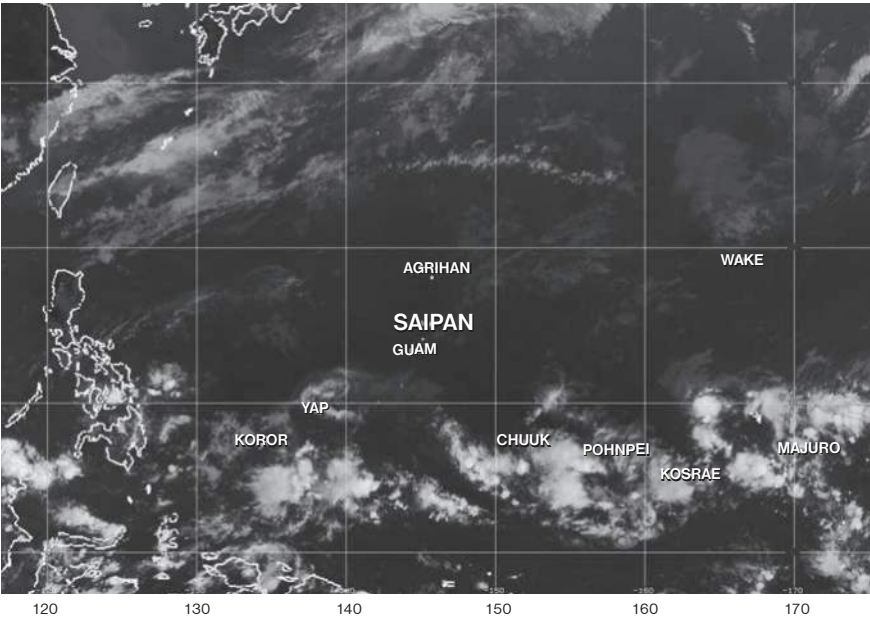
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 56
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 53
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 68
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 70
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 58 ▼ 42
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 53
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 71 ▼ 55
Miami	Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 71
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 37
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 49
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 44
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 56
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 47
Salem	Rain	▲ 54 ▼ 47
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 52
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 53
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 54
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 52 ▼ 40

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
12:23 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet	
7:01 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
1:04 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet	
6:37 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough meanders eastward from 5N130E to 2N155E to a weak circulation centered near Korsae at 5N164E then turns southeastward to end near EQ174E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present southwest and southeast of Palau within 130 miles of a line from 5N130E to 2N149E within 230 miles of a line from 7N147E to 5N165E and south of Majuro within 130 miles of a line from 6N167E to EQ176E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms northwest to northeast of Kwajelein within 140 miles of a line from 10N167E to 10N177E. A surface trough extends north-northwest from 20N165E to beyond 25N at 164E. Scattered showers are found northwest of Wake Island within 130 miles of the trough axis.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:54 AM	4:04 PM
Saturday	4:42 AM	5:02 PM
Sunday	5:30 AM	5:59 PM
Monday	6:16 AM	6:57 PM
Tuesday	7:03 AM	7:53 PM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 27, 2014

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA1746	8:55pm	10:52pm	Daily via Rota	UA1746	7:30pm	8:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	D2101	8:30am	2:00pm	3
D2102	2:20am	5:50am	3	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	D2103	7:30pm	1:00am+1	6
OZ6063	3:30am	7:20am	4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29)	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
D2104	2:00pm	5:30pm	6	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ6053	9:10pm	2:30am+1	3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5	MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	PR110/UA5072	7:35am	5:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	DL172/288	7:45am	1:30am+1	Daily via NRT
				OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
				OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5038/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	11:10pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN				
SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN)				TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN			
D2884	10:45am	2:45pm	Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	D2885	4:45pm	12:20am +1	Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
D2880	4:30pm	8:00pm	Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	D2881	10:00pm	5:15am +1	Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH)				WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN			
D2882	11:00am	3:15pm	Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	D2883	5:15pm	12:20am +1	Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

- Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
  - \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
  - Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



## A tale of reunion and forgiveness

The saga of Tinian's local politics continues right here right now for your reading entertainment!

When the mayor of Tinian came out in the media and raised the issue about public hearings for the legalization of casino gaming on Saipan, the sleeping giant at the northern end of Tinian immediately woke up and drove down to town to meet with the mayor.

That day, as the sleeping giant drove his 1957 Chevy sedan into the parking lot of the mayor's office, there were many people, followers, and great

admirers, waiting to meet the sleeping giant. That day was a momentous day for the mayor, who was waiting by the door. It was another day of another reunion and unification of spirit, cooperation, support, and understanding.

During the meeting between the mayor and the sleeping giant inside the mayor's office, the sleeping giant informed the mayor that he would never again go to sleep or leave the mayor unattended. The mayor in exchange informed the sleeping giant the he, too, would do likewise. To the surprise of ev-

eryone waiting outside the mayor's office, the meeting between the sleeping giant and the mayor lasted one hour and 30 minutes.

On the way out of the mayor's office, the sleeping giant saluted the mayor in a military gesture and disappeared in greatness and good health.

In analyzing the meeting between the sleeping giant and the mayor, it means that forgiving your neighbors regardless of differences will ensure from above that you, too, will be forgiven.

**Martin M. Sakisat**  
Garapan, Saipan

## Barriers to this mega-casino idea

These are the things we should question and think about now that this bill is signed.

■ The manpower for the construction of the building and the availability of services needed for these projects.

■ The timeline for this casino to materialize. Will it be finished in time to generate the expected revenue to help retirement, utility, and health care issues?

■ Workforce issues. Does the CNMI have enough qualified local workers for this industry?

■ Are there any prevention and intervention plans to address addiction and crimes, as well as regulations and policies that are needed for the safety and wellbeing of the

people of CNMI?

■ At present, many businesses and investors are struggling with the high utility cost and the need for qualified local workers. Are our leaders ready to address those issues?

■ Evidently our leaders are incapable of addressing the issues for the one only casino (Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino) still operating in CNMI. How do we know they are capable of handling this bigger casino they dream of having?

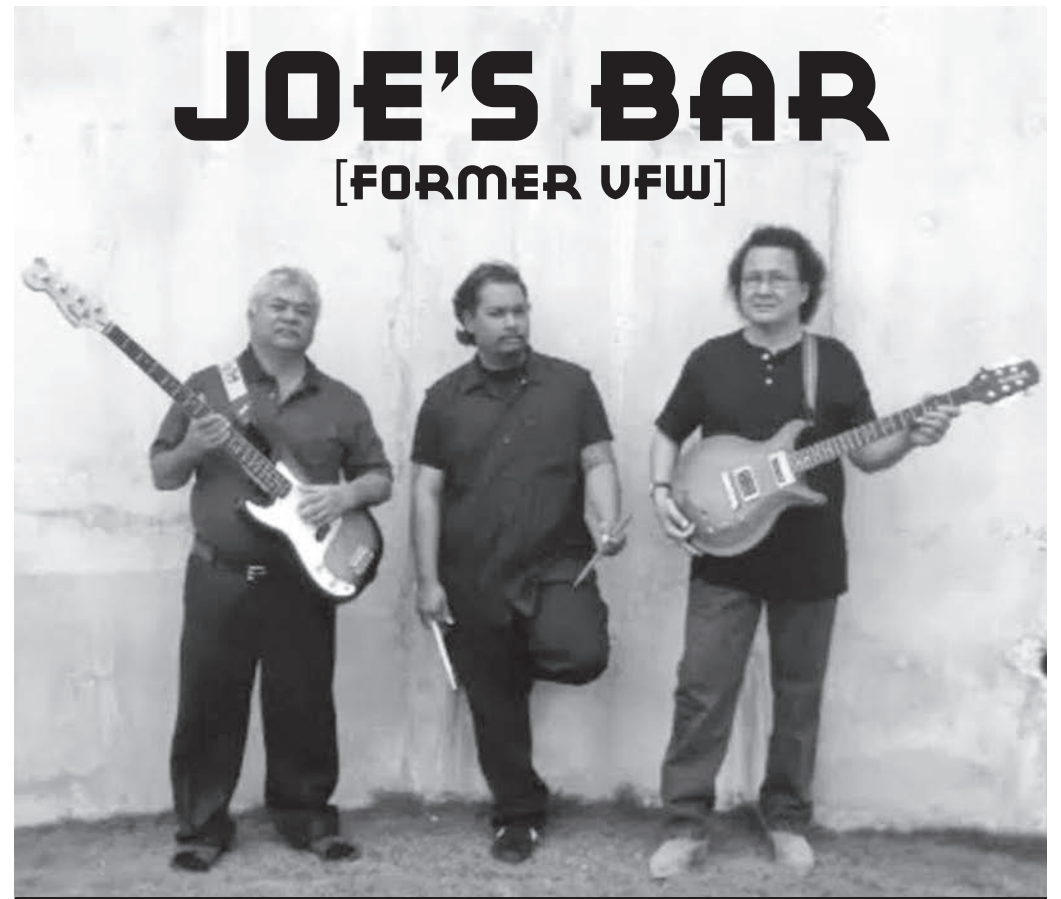
■ Saipan just got out of a power outage problem. Would allowing this mega-casino, which will need to bring in many experts to work and train locals, jeopardize our

present utility service needs? What will happen to Saipan if the casino siphons off most of the power? Another wave of rolling blackouts?

■ Allowing another casino on Saipan could cause an impact that our government might be incapable of handling. There are many issues that could be threatening our wellbeing and our government. Other than funding issues, one example of these are crimes that might arise and we are unable to control. Even now with poker establishments only, there are many homicide cases not being solved.

■ Other hotels and businesses might shut down in the face

See **BARRIERS** on Next Page



## FEATURING Black Sands LIVE

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# A final night of magical music with Roman Rudnytsky

The Friends of the Arts will be sponsoring its second and final special concert this weekend with Roman Rudnytsky—a rare opportunity to listen to classical music, played by an internationally renowned pianist.

Rudnytsky provided a free

public concert for the community this past weekend. In his last performance this trip, he will be playing in concert this Saturday, March 29, at 7pm at the Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. The March 29 program will be

open to all at the cost of \$12 for FOA members, \$15 for non-member adults, and \$8 for students. Tickets will be available at the door or seats can be reserved by e-mailing Frank Gibson at [fgibson@yahoo.com](mailto:fgibson@yahoo.com).

This March 29 program will include selections from such classical masters as Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Liszt, Debussy, Chopin and Grieg, performed by a modern day master. The pieces played will all be different from those performed at the

March 22 concert.

A graduate of the famous Juilliard School in New York, he also did additional studies at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland and at master classes in Austria (the “Mozarteum”) and Italy.

During his two-week visit to Saipan, he traveled to many of the CNMI schools, includ-

ing Tinian and Rota, playing and discussing music with the students. This is Rudnytsky's fourth (or more) trip to the CNMI, last here in 2012. Rudnytsky travels at his own expense and donates his time to the community. The Friends of the Arts, with the help of sponsors from the Community, has hosted Rudnytsky's stay.

## Challenges to his successes: The story of Zaji Zajradhara

Zaji Zajradhara, a participant of the CNMI Department of Labor Workforce Investment Agency Division, completed the Certified Phlebotomy Technician training with its provider, Pinnacle Staffing LLC, in partnership with Guam Marianas Training Center. He successfully passed the exam to earn him national credentials as a Certified Phlebotomist Technician under

the authority of the National Healthcare Association.

It was not always smooth sailing but Zaji overcame the obstacles he faced to get him to where he is today and shares his story below:

“The challenge is well worth the rewards but my story is a bit different.

“I arrived on Saipan from the bustling metropolis of western

Tokyo. Needless to say, I was surprised not only at the beauty of this island but also the limited employment choices. For a few months, I was unemployed and met Mr. Walter Macaranas who told me about the Workforce Investment Agency and that's where my journey began.

“Upon registering and testing at WIA, I was given occupational choices and I chose

medical. Aside from the CPT courses, WIA included me in a variety of remedial and career classes.”

Zaji intends to use his CPT credentials to pursue “missionary work in either India or Africa for a year “but I could as well utilize the national certification right here.”

Despite Zaji's struggles, he continues to strive to pursue

other dreams. He aspires to also become a disc jockey on a local radio and be “the first Afro-Latino-Seminole can boat captain ever to achieve his license in the CNMI.”

Zaji attributes his accomplishments to individuals mentioned below that has helped him along the way: “To my beautiful daughter Zhajida-Yemaya, my son

Nagi, my family in the mainland, Mayor Donald Flores, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Blackburn, Jaydee, EJ, Queen Mother Warrior Felicidad Ogumoro, Nikita Cabrera, Rob and Nancy Russel, Dr. Jeffrey Richards, John, “da math whiz-kid” Raulerson, Todd Price, Brian Todd, Shellie O'Neal, Cher Lynn Ray, Rita Pelisamen, ‘my momma away from

home’ Carmen Kaipat, Joe Hill, John Joyner, Chemere McField, Matt Meyers, K. Church, Vlad Melnik, Michael

Dilley Bam-bam, EJ, Frankie Cepeda, Big Frank, Jenpy, Shenna and Victor Flores, Fe at GMTCC, Richard and Bunjing Cano, Don Clyburn, Lil Donna, Leroy, Summer, Vivian Sablan, the outstanding staff at DOL-WIA



Zajradhara

and if I've forgotten anyone, always know that you're in my thoughts. Thanks for your direction and local guidance. You can do whatever it is that you put yourself/will to.”

On behalf of the entire Department of Labor, we congratulate Zaji on his accomplishment and wish him all the best in all of his future endeavors. (DOL)

## BARRIERS

From Page 13

of the challenges this megacasinomight bring in. Would this affect the projected budget income? Did our leaders make plans to prevent these issues should they arise?

■ Tinian Dynasty is not going to sit back and wait for its doom. Besides that, they have more experience in running a casino here in the CNMI. Are you sure our leaders are ready to face those challenge should it arise?

■ Who will be the clients of this megacasinom?

What if the people of Saipan decide to impeach the governor and all those responsible for passing this law? What's going to happen to this casino and how is this going to make us look should this disaster arise?

■ How will we benefit from it?

■ Is Saipan ready or does it have a plan on how to manage the revenue generated from this megacasinom? Are they capable of handling them? On Tinian our revenue was misused by our leaders first before the people got the report on how much revenue our municipal treasury is generating. It took almost six years before they made the report on the revenue made from the casino and up until now only a few have the knowledge on how to access the reports on this revenue. I wonder how Saipan's casino is going to be handled.

■ What about the workforce issues? How and what guarantee do we have that we have enough workers to provide or is Saipan

ready to face that challenge?

■ There will be more demands for public safety, living necessity, housing, and transportation. Do we have enough to share? What are your plans on these issues? For example, our hospital at present still lacks manpower such as nurses, doctors, pharmacies, equipments, bedding, and other supplies. Do our leaders have plans on these issues? At the Department of Public Safety, do they have enough rooms for criminals or juvenile delinquents? (These are issues that might arise and will need to be funded too.)

So before you make your final decision, think about these things. Our leaders need our support in finding a solution to fix the Retirement's Fund's problem, CUC, health care, and education. All these need funding and we need to submit something to help them. Right now casino is the only solution they have. I just wish they'll share why they say this is the only solution. Because there are still potential barriers that could jeopardize their fantasy of making this solution a reality. More development means more money. So, like I said, if they lobby for this casino to pay our debt, plus allow them to provide CUC and healthcare with the financial assistance to hire the experts that we need, then I will support this idea 100 percent. I don't support the idea of getting small money for big development. Big money and big development makes more sense. What do you think?

**Winnie Atalig**  
San Jose Village, Tinian

## Your Baby at 6 Months



Child's Name

Child's Age

Today's Date

How your child plays, learns, speaks, and acts offers important clues about your child's development. Developmental milestones are things most children can do by a certain age.

Check the milestones your child has reached by the end of 6 months. Take this with you and talk with your child's doctor at every visit about the milestones your child has reached and what to expect next.

### What Most Babies Do at this Age:

#### Social/Emotional

- ☐ Knows familiar faces and begins to know if someone is a stranger
- ☐ Likes to play with others, especially parents
- ☐ Responds to other people's emotions and often seems happy
- ☐ Likes to look at self in a mirror

#### Language/Communication

- ☐ Responds to sounds by making sounds
- ☐ Strings vowels together when babbling (“ah,” “eh,” “oh”) and likes taking turns with parent while making sounds
- ☐ Responds to own name
- ☐ Makes sounds to show joy and displeasure
- ☐ Begins to say consonant sounds (jabbering with “m,” “b”)

#### Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving)

- ☐ Looks around at things nearby
- ☐ Brings things to mouth
- ☐ Shows curiosity about things and tries to get things that are out of reach
- ☐ Begins to pass things from one hand to the other

#### Movement/Physical Development

- ☐ Rolls over in both directions (front to back, back to front)
- ☐ Begins to sit without support
- ☐ When standing, supports weight on legs and might bounce
- ☐ Rocks back and forth, sometimes crawling backward before moving forward

### Act Early by Talking to Your Child's Doctor if Your Child:

- ☐ Doesn't try to get things that are in reach
- ☐ Shows no affection for caregivers
- ☐ Doesn't respond to sounds around him
- ☐ Has difficulty getting things to mouth
- ☐ Doesn't make vowel sounds (“ah,” “eh,” “oh”)
- ☐ Doesn't roll over in either direction
- ☐ Doesn't laugh or make squealing sounds
- ☐ Seems very stiff, with tight muscles
- ☐ Seems very floppy, like a rag doll

Tell your child's doctor or nurse if you notice any of these signs of possible developmental delay for this age, and talk with someone in your community who is familiar with services for young children in your area, such as your state's public early intervention program. For more information, go to [www.cdc.gov/concerned](http://www.cdc.gov/concerned) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

Adapted from CARING FOR YOUR BABY AND YOUNG CHILD: BIRTH TO AGE 5, Fifth Edition, edited by Steven Shelov and Tanya Remer Altmann © 1991, 1993, 1998, 2004, 2009 by the American Academy of Pediatrics and BRIGHT FUTURES: GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH SUPERVISION OF INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND ADOLESCENTS, Third Edition, edited by Joseph Hagan, Jr., Judith S. Shaw, and Paula M. Duncan, 2008, Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics. This milestone checklist is not a substitute for a standardized, validated developmental screening tool.

## HOW IS YOUR BABY GROWING?

If you have any concerns about your child's development, contact the Children's Developmental Assistance Center (CDAC) at 664-4830

Printing funded by the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Grant.



[www.cdc.gov/actearly](http://www.cdc.gov/actearly) | 1-800-CDC-INFO



Learn the Signs. Act Early.



HONOR ROLL

Mount Carmel School congratulates the following students for making it to the 3rd Quarter President’s List and Honor Roll.

**PRESIDENT’S LIST**  
Students must have a GPA of 4.00 or above and must attain character marks of VG or above.

**1ST GRADE**  
CAMACHO, Irie Kane H.  
CASTRO, Kenneth S.  
DUENAS, Quimari Liwerscheng B.  
KAUTZ, Claire Regina G.  
LEE, Jamie  
LOBO, Angelo T.  
MALLARI, Laizza Vianca A.  
MALLARI, Audrein Jennifer M.  
MESA, Isaiah George F.  
NICHOLAS, Jalen Jeremiah B.  
PALACIOS, Tricia J.  
PAMINTUAN, Manuel Vidal  
PELEN, Cedric Benedict A.  
REYES, Chelsy Anne L.  
SABLAN, Kiana Cecilia N.  
SABLAN, Aaliyah Victoria B.  
SASAMOTO, Hitomi Rosa S.  
STEELE, Lyssa Rae P.  
TAIMANAO, Aryana Carmen A.  
TAISACAN, Nevaeh Sky B.  
TOSKAS, Irie Kane H.  
TRAVILLA, Arturo Z.

**2ND GRADE**  
GAMAB, Keehara Nielsen V.  
GUERRERO, Ruben Antonio C.  
MANGLONA, Aiyana Jade R.  
PROPST, Devin Jordan M.  
REYES, Tiffany M.  
SABLAN, Andrew B.  
BLANCO, Elisa Ellen E.  
REYES, Vicente Jose

**3rd GRADE**  
BALDAZO, Keehara Nielsen V.  
CABRERA, Kyla Monique B.  
DELA CRUZ, Kina M.  
GALANG, Raphael Christian P.  
HUNTER, Brissa C.  
MUNA, Breanna S.  
OMAR, Salina Jacklyn I.  
ORTIZO, Brent Matthew E.  
PALACIOS, Ryona Exsaleen S.  
REYES, Tiara Maya I.  
SABLAN, Mathew Adrian A.  
SASAMOTO, YuriHana Rosa D.  
SAULOG, Cyrine May T.

**4TH GRADE**  
ALDAVE, Lynette Anne D.  
BUCALIG, Fiona Marielle A.  
CHONG, Kevin Daisuke M.  
COMBINIDO, Jewel Monique M.  
CRUZANA, Daphne Rylee M.  
DIAZ, Jeremiah Jerome H.

DUENAS, Monique Laura F.  
GUERRERO, Christian Felix C.  
MALLARI, Vaughn Andrei A.  
MAREHAM, Jacob C.  
MENDIOLA, Alleah Marie R.  
MUNA, Devon Tyler S.  
PELEN, Brandon Philip A.  
PROPST, Kiana Lei M.  
SABLAN, Vidal Jose B.  
SCHWEIGER, Theresa Rose C.  
STEELE, Richard Ramon P.  
TENORIO, Joshua C.  
TRAVILLA, Kaia D.

**5TH GRADE**  
CASTRO, Coloma Agualin B.  
GALANG, Aldraine Angelo P.  
HUNTER, Brandee C.  
TYQUIENGCO, Auriana Kayleeh

**6TH GRADE**  
BORJA, Kalea Lou B.

**7TH GRADE**  
BOBADILLA, Jan Emmanuel D.  
MACARANAS, Dayna Lou M.  
PANGELINAN, Rosalia Francine A.  
RAMIREZ, Reica Jucel A.

**8TH GRADE**  
CATALMA, Ma. Clarinda Graziela A.  
LAZARO, Maria Christine M.  
LEE, Hee Joo  
MELCHOR, Jeff Matthew B.  
MUNA, De’Jana Lennise S.  
PALACIOS, Michelle Lin  
TOKAS, Jonelle Gwyneth  
TORRES, Cassidy Victoria C.  
USI, Monica Aira B.  
VILLACRUSIS, Geuel M.  
ZHENG, Rui Hua Theresa Xu

**9TH GRADE**  
DELEON GUERRERO JR., Zeno C.  
DOCTOR, Jaqueline B.  
HIGUCHI, Kai  
ORTIZO, Michael Roy E.

**10TH GRADE**  
IWAI, Emiri Angela  
JAVIER, Cathryn Jane A.  
MANGLONA, Thomas Lee, II A.  
PAK, Han Byeol

**11TH GRADE**  
BABAUTA, Peter Thomas A.  
CAMACHO, William D.  
DELOS SANTOS, Savannah Lyn R.  
KIM, Da Hyun  
LAZARO, Maria Fe Andrea M.  
LEE, Woo Ri (Esther)

SATO, Masami  
SON, Jung Hyun (Tony)  
YOO, Helen

**12TH GRADE**  
CAMACHO, Rikki Carmen R.  
CHE, Jasmine P  
DEMAPAN, Carey Shioh N.  
JUN, Bo Min  
JUNG, Ju Won  
KANG, Hyun Suk  
KAUTZ, Michelle  
LIZAMA II, Leon Liang  
MALITI, Angel S.  
MANESE, Andrea Grace C.  
WU, Ginny

**HONOR ROLL**  
Students must have a GPA of 3.66 or above and must not have any behavior grade of U or NI.

**1ST GRADE**  
SILVA, Maui P.

**2ND GRADE**  
TORRES, Maria Yoshie C.  
TAIMANAO JR.II, Joannes R.  
MILITANTE, Ethan Jude C.  
SALAS, Raymana Owen D.  
BARCINAS, Alicia L.

**3RD GRADE**  
SASAMOTO, Derek S.  
CAMACHO, Vidal Jose H.  
MUNA, Sienna Jade B.  
DIAZ, Carlo Crisdeo H.  
DELEON GUERRERO II, Serafin R.  
MILITANTE JR., Donnie James C.

**4TH GRADE**  
ALVAREZ, Robin Kyle M.  
BANG, Cristina Daon

**5TH GRADE**  
KANG, Kevin  
SATO, Maaya  
TOMBOC, Reuben Christian O.  
MINAMI, William K.  
AYUYU, Maria Kanako E.  
MAREHAM, Zoe Kleui C.  
MESA, Noah Peter F.  
REYES, Kyana Frances D.  
SABLAN, Penelope F.

**6TH GRADE**  
KIM, Yu Dam  
BUENAVENTURA, Riley Anne O.  
DELEON GUERRERO, William  
Blake C.  
BUCALIG, Francesca Marie A.

SANCHEZ, Ma. Charlize V.  
JAVIER, Lleyton Andre A.  
SALLILIN, Dustin Ross D.  
RABANG, Katelyn A.  
REYES, Blake Anthony M.

**7TH GRADE**  
CASTRO, Rosa P.  
CUNANAN, Erika Gabrielle D.  
ACOSTA, Ydylle Faye C.  
SATO, Karen  
TERJALE, Maria G.  
OCAMPO, Justin P.  
BATUSIN, Aldwin Ray T.  
MANESE, Angelo Gabriel C.  
TABORA, Earl Daivick B.  
HAN, Louisa Sa  
JANG, Eric  
ATTAO, Alyssa P.  
GOMEZ, Peyton R.  
SATURNO, Anniea Z.

**8TH GRADE**  
HAHN, Jonah B.  
LEE, Da Hee  
YUN, Seok Jun

**9TH GRADE**  
CASTRO, Jose P.  
CUSHING, Arron C.  
HUNTER, Brianna C.  
JUN, You Jin  
LEE, Eric  
PALACIOS, Cheng Yang  
SANTOS, Joshua G

**10TH GRADE**  
BANG, Ji Eun (Andrea)  
DELEON GUERRERO, Lance Q.  
KIM, Ki Youn  
KIM, Min Gyu  
TAKAHASHI, Mikiya

**11TH GRADE**  
AHN, Sung Min

**12TH GRADE**  
CAMACHO, Kuino N.  
DELEON GUERRERO, Tasha Rae A.  
KWON, Soon Hyung  
LEBRIA, Kaylani R.  
LEE, Sang Hwa  
LEE, So Hee  
SHAKIR, Aamir  
SHIN, Hye Yeon  
TAYLOR, Amy M.  
TOMOKANE, Franchesca M.  
YAMAGATA, Rayanne A.

# GOOD NEWS!

## U-LUCK POKER

is happy to announce that we are having a raffle to acknowledge all our valued customers. We want to express our deepest gratitude by having the following raffles.

**GRAND PRIZE!**

**2014 TOYOTA YARIS**

**WORTH \$18,800**



**1st Prize**

**ROUND TRIP TICKET FROM SAIPAN TO NEW YORK, USA**

(2 WINNERS) WORTH \$1500/EA.

**2nd Prize**

**ROUND TRIP TICKET FROM SAIPAN TO SHANGHAI, CHINA**

(2 WINNERS) WORTH \$1000.00/EA.

**3rd Prize**

**ONE WEEK ACCOMMODATION AT SUNSHINE GARDEN**

(2 WINNERS) WORTH \$623.00/EA.

**4th Prize**

**SCOOTER**

(2 WINNERS) WORTH \$500.00/EA.

**5th Prize**

**GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR SUNSHINE RESTAURANT**

(2 WINNERS) WORTH \$200.00/EA.

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC** January 13, 2014

To All Our Valued Customers:

We would like to extend our utmost gratitude to all our valued customers by giving good prizes on our raffle promo, but unfortunately, the Department of Finance informed us that the regulations specifically limits the prizes to merchandise valuing less than \$35,000.00 and prohibits cash prizes. We would like to express our deepest apology regarding the changes we've had to make in order for our raffle promo to go on. We hope for your understanding and continued support.

**U-LUCK POKER MANAGEMENT**

Please see the table chart below on how to get your raffle ticket

BET	STRAIGHT FLUSH	5 OF A KIND	ROYAL FLUSH
10 bet - 18 bet (\$0.05)	2 ticket	4 ticket	8 ticket
5 bet (\$0.25)	2 ticket	5 ticket	25 ticket
6 bet - 10 bet (\$0.25)	5 ticket	10 ticket	50 ticket
11 bet - 20 bet (\$0.25)	10 ticket	20 ticket	100 ticket
21 bet - 40 bet (\$1.00)	20 ticket	40 ticket	200 ticket

**"ALL PRIZES CAN'T BE EXCHANGE INTO CASH"**

**Tel: 233-0108 • Garapan next to Kimchi Cabana Karaoke**

**16 days left before raffle day! Raffle date: April 12, 2014**



# Experience Kia

## The Power to Surprise



**ALL-NEW 2014 soul**

Pushing the boundaries even further

Starting at **\$139** per paycheck\*

**FREE Tint**

**FREE Ziebart Undercoat**



Always moving forward, always evolving... that's the Soul. This exuberant, head-turning car has been given a makeover, with its unique design made even more unique through enhanced detailing, tweaked proportions and modern touches that give it a premium feel from top to bottom.



**ALL-NEW 2014 FORTE**

Add a dose of extraordinary to your life

Starting at **\$139** per paycheck\*

**FREE Tint**

**FREE Ziebart Undercoat**



Perhaps you never thought innovation, technical excellence and exceptional style could all come together in an affordable passenger car. But finally, they do. Let the new Forte take you places you've only imagined.



**Joeten Motors**  
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**SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. — FRI. 8 AM — 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. (670) 234-5562**

Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last. \*\*EPA Estimated hwy mpg.

\* **Kia Soul LX** retail price \$18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$300.90 or \$138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$18,054.00.

\*\* **Kia Forte LX** retail price \$18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$300.90 or \$138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$18,054.00.



# Business community backs Red Cross Walkathon



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shell Depot manager Jack Salas is joined by Red Cross board chair Tayna Belyeu-Camacho and Emergency Services director Paul Camacho.

Transpac Group, Bank of Guam, IP&E, Pacific Islands Club, and Island Apparel are major donors again this year for the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Red Cross Walkathon.

They join other corporate sponsors like ASC Corp., First Hawaiian Bank, Bank of Hawaii, Marpac, Joeten Enterprises, TSL Foundation, PHI Pharmacy, Her-

man's Bakery and many more.

"The Red Cross is grateful to our community business partners who help us accomplish our lifesaving mission here in



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tania Mesa, ASC Saipan branch manager, is joined by Red Cross staff Kennedy Benjamin and John Hirsh

the CNMI," said Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, board chair. "As a longtime volunteer, I am always humbled by the generosity of our community and their will-

ingness to help those in need."

The Red Cross Walkathon is this Saturday, March 29, starting at the 4H building in Su-supe. The walk starts at 6am

and those who pledge \$20 will receive an event T-shirt and lots of other giveaways. For more information contact the Chapter at 234-3459. (ARC)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
State Board of Education  
Public School System

**Start Smart with  
HEAD START!**

Preparing your child to be school ready  
Open Enrollment for School Year 2014-2015

Please be advised that the Head Start Program is a federally funded pre-school program that has Eligibility and Selection criteria.

- Registering your child does not guarantee automatic enrollment
- Only parents/legal guardian can register your child
- No bus transportation provided
- Children 3-4 years old are age-eligible for Head Start services.

**HEAD START PROGRAM REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

- Child's Birth Certificate
- Parent/Guardian verification of income
- Head Start Program Physical Exam form, Dental form, Immunization form, School Health Entrance Certificate
- Child's Social Security Card
- Medicaid Insurance including Copies of Public Assistance such as WIC, NAP, LEAP, Housing assistance
- Passport/Visa, Immigration permits (for non-residents)
- Legal Guardians notarized documents stipulating the guardianship of children
- Copy IEP/IFSP for children with disabilities

**SCHOOL**

For more information, please call 323-7447 or 323-7446 or visit any Head Start Center near you.

**Did you know that last year, Saipan had eight adult female turtles nest on our beaches?**

The year before that we had a record nine green turtles nest! Sadly, out of these seventeen total, only nine will return to lay eggs again someday since eight were taken illegally by hunters.

To report sick, injured, or dead turtles, please call our stranding hotline at **287-8537 (CTR-TLES)** or DFW Enforcement at **989-6095**. CNMI turtles are a shared community resource connecting our people's past with our people's future. Help us to conserve sea turtles so future generations may be able to enjoy them also.

**SEA TURTLES**

**DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE**  
CNMI



# EARTH HOUR

## 2014 60+

Let's Join The World

29 MARCH, 8:30PM-9:30PM

LIGHTS OFF.  
STARS SHINE.

Together We Can Make A Difference



Tan Holdings



# Man gets 5 years in prison for groping girl, 13

Jing Song Lin, a 49-year-old storeowner who admitted to groping the breast and buttocks of a 13-year-old girl in 2012, was slapped with a five-year prison sentence on Wednesday.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced Lin to the full maximum of five years in prison, without parole, probation, early release or weekend release, for one count of sexual abuse of a child in the third degree.

Camacho ordered Lin to register as a sex offender.

The judge said as this case involves the sexual abuse of a 13-year-old female child, the court finds the full maximum sentence appropriate and just.

The remaining charges were dismissed as part of the defendant's plea agreement with the Office of the Attorney General.

After the hearing, Camacho ordered court marshals to immediately took Lin to the Department of Corrections so he could start serving his sentence.

According to a police report prepared by police officer Rudolfo Hermosilla, police officers responded to LF Market in Chalan Kanoa in July 2012 after

receiving a call about a sexual assault incident.

According to police, the girl entered the store to buy cookies. Lin offered the girl a soda then hugged her and touched her breast through her clothing.

The surveillance camera in the store caught the incident. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## Delta adds service from LA to Austin, Boise

Delta Air Lines this summer will continue its expansion at Los Angeles International Airport with new daily nonstop service to Austin, Texas, and Boise, Idaho, along with new daily non-stop service to San Salvador, El Salvador, pending government approval. Delta also has filed for approval to begin daily service between Los Angeles and Monterrey, Mexico.

“With direct access to all of the key U.S. tech markets as well as additional Latin service through our gateway at LAX, we can continue to provide business and leisure customers with the best service options to meet their travel needs,” said Bob Cortelyou, Delta’s senior vice president – Network Planning. “Los Angeles is a key market for Delta as we continue growing our presence on the U.S. West Coast.”

Service from Los Angeles to Austin and San Salvador will be operated using Delta Boeing 717 and Boeing 737 aircraft, respectively. Service from Los Angeles to Boise and Monterrey will be operated by Delta Connection carrier Compass Airlines using two-class, 76-seat CRJ-900 aircraft.

With new service to Austin, Delta will now connect Los Angeles’ growing Silicon Beach tech and startup community with all the major tech centers in the United States, including: Boston, beginning June 5; New York; Oakland, Calif.; Portland, Oregon; Salt Lake City; San Francisco; San Jose, Calif.; Seattle; and now Austin.

Additionally, customers in Austin, Boise, Monterrey and San Salvador will soon have one-stop service to Tokyo-Nar-

ita, Tokyo-Haneda, and Sydney through Delta’s international gateway in Los Angeles.

Delta has made significant enhancements to its Los Angeles service both on the ground and in the air in the last few years. Travelers through Los Angeles will enjoy the benefits of the \$229 million expansion and enhancement of Terminal 5 at Los Angeles International Airport. The current project will double the size of the ticketing lobby and screening checkpoints, open an exclusive, separate Sky Priority lobby and checkpoint, and include renovations to the Delta Sky Club and new baggage carousels. The project has already begun and is scheduled to take place in several phases with full completion in 2015.

Delta currently operates 130 flights to 43 destinations from LAX, and every flight offers BusinessElite/First Class and Economy Comfort seating. By this summer, Delta will operate more than 140 peak-day flights to LAX, including our new service. Nearly every domestic flight features Wi-Fi service. *(Delta)*

## Pohnpei revives Soil and Water Conservation District Board


**HONOLULU**—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service extends to each new director congratulations with their recent appointment to the Pohnpei Soil and Water Conservation District Board. On behalf of the NRCS Pacific Islands Area Director and all leadership staff, thank you for your willingness to serve in the capacity of SWCD director. New board directors are Adelino Lorens, Alden Salvador, Wendolin Roseo Marquez, Mayoriko Victor, Mark Kostka, Francisca Sohl Obispo, and Marlyter Silbanuz.

“It was an honor and a pleasure to meet with the newly-appointed SWCD board and begin the very important discussions of how the board can work with farmers in Pohnpei addressing soil and water conservation on the islands,” said Christine Clarke, acting director for the NRCS Pacific Islands Area.

The role of Conservation Districts is an important one. With the reactivation of the Pohnpei SWCD, each director will be the local voice of Pohnpei landowners in helping to guide NRCS technical assistance to address the important issues of promoting soil and water conservation by preventing erosion and improving the use of Pohnpei’s land and water resources.

Directors were selected by Pohnpei State Gov. John Ehsa and the Legislature because of their high level of skill, professionalism, and commitment to improving the quality of the environment on Pohnpei. The directors hold a three-year term, and the NRCS staff looks forward to working with the new board. The Pohnpei SWCD joins a large network of SWCDs throughout the Pacific Islands Area to partners with NRCS on conservation efforts.

To learn more about us, visit [www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov) for more information. *(NRCS)*



### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp)

### FIRST AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for Terminal Improvements at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Tinian International Airport, Terminal Improvements, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 and must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM on FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2014** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, demolition, building and site improvements and includes concrete foundations, concrete slabs-on-grade, cast-in-place concrete, roof membrane, metal roofing, concrete masonry unit walls, non-structural metal framing, carpentry, gypsum board, ceramic tile, resilient flooring, acoustical ceilings, aluminum doors and frames, aluminum windows, glazing, door hardware, cabinetry, toilet partitions, toilet accessories, signage, flag poles, baggage conveyors, waiting room seating, painting, ventilation, air conditioning, plumbing, electrical lighting and power, complete and ready for use all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from CNMI Capital Improvement Program. The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

The Contract period for construction of the Project in its entirety shall be two hundred seventy (270) calendar days. Liquidated damages in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are “responsive and responsible.” The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not “responsive and responsible”, their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the Project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by CNMI Law or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract. A copy of the CNMI Minimum Wage Rate Determination is included in the General Provisions, Section 70-25.

Each Bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the “Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause”, a “Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities”, and the “Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation”, as contained in the Bid Proposal documents, with submission of their Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the “Commonwealth Ports Authority”.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference date.

Bid Proposals shall be submitted on the Bid Proposal form included in the CD-Rom obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding Bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the Bid Schedule or misentry of the quantity of line items; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the Project Contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said Bids if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the Regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

Each Bidder must supply all information required by the Bid documents and Specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the Specifications. Bid Proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority office at no cost.

A Contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the Specifications. To be eligible for award, each Bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids in response to this Invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, in consideration for an award of any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.


Each Bid shall be accompanied by either a Bid Bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, Certified Check, or a Cashier's Check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the Bid amount. Checks shall be made payable to the “Commonwealth Ports Authority”.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ  
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: March 14, 2014



### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
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### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS FOR CPA PROJECT NO. RFP-007-14

#### PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGE MAINTENANCE SERVICE SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is requesting proposals from qualified firms to provide the CPA with Passenger Loading Bridge Maintenance at the Saipan International Airport.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** All work shall take place at the Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**SCOPE OF SERVICES:** The scope of work will consist of all necessary preventive maintenance services and on-call repair of six (6) Jetway Passenger Loading Bridges and related equipment at the Saipan International Airport.

**OBTAINING RFP DOCUMENTS AND ADDENDA:** The RFP document will be available for pick up at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd, Floor Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport beginning March 21, 2014. Firm must register with the Office of the Executive Director upon obtaining the RFP Package.

**EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS AND AWARD OF CONTRACT:** This solicitation has been developed in the Request for Proposals (RFP) format. Accordingly, firms should take note that multiple factors as identified in the RFP package will be considered by the Evaluation Committee to determine which proposal best meets the requirements set forth in the RFP document. The CPA reserves the right to negotiate the terms and conditions of any resulting contract. Final Contract award, if any, will be made by the Commonwealth Ports Authority Contracting Officer. The selected firm will be required to comply with all insurance and license requirements of the CPA.

**A non-mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference** will be held at the Saipan International Airport Departure Building Conference Room located on the second floor at 10:00 AM on Friday, April 4th, 2014 and will include a tour of the Airport Loading Bridges to acquaint prospective Proposers with site conditions. Temporary SIDA badges will be provided for the tour. **Attendance is strongly encouraged.**

Failure of a Proposer to attend the pre-proposal conference shall constitute acceptance of all pre-existing site conditions and shall constitute a waiver of any and all future claims relating to said conditions. No variation in a proposal submitted shall be permitted based on claim ignorance. This will be the only site visit scheduled.

**DEADLINE:** All proposals must be received by the Office of the Executive Director at the aforementioned location by 4:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, Friday, APRIL 25th, 2014. The receiving time in the Executive Director's Office will be the governing time for acceptability of Proposals. All other forms of Proposal submissions will not be accepted and shall be returned unopened.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects of said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

**PROPOSALS VALIDITY:** The Proposer shall guarantee that all contents of their proposal shall be valid for a period of 120 calendar days from the due date of proposals.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# Business

## Home demolitions turn Detroit into blank canvas

**DETROIT (AP)**—The families of Detroit's Brightmoor area are delighted that the day is finally approaching when bulldozers will arrive to level more of their neighborhood. After that, their community's future will be like the cleared landscape—a blank canvas.

For years, Brightmoor residents pleaded with the city to demolish vacant homes that scavengers had stripped of wiring and plumbing and anything of value. Some structures are already gone, and now officials aim to do much more, possibly tearing down as many as 450 empty houses each week across more than 20 square miles of this bankrupt city—a vast patchwork of rotting homes comparable to the size of Manhattan.

The huge demolition project holds the potential to transform large parts of Detroit into an urban-redevelopment laboratory like the nation has never seen. But community leaders here and in cities that have attempted similar transformations say Detroit's best efforts could still wither from lack of money, lack of commitment or harsh economic realities.

"What's the plan for lots to

keep them from becoming a different type of blight?" asked Tom Goddeeris, executive director of Grandmont Rosedale Development Corp., a nonprofit community improvement group representing a cluster of five Detroit neighborhoods.

The ambitious demolition schedule was formally presented last month as part of the city's plans to emerge from bankruptcy.

The changes could be far-reaching: Unlike other cities where building space is almost always limited, Detroit will offer urban planners a rare chance to experiment with wide-open land. Neighborhood advocates are talking excitedly about creating urban gardens, farms, forests and other types of "green space."

Brightmoor already has the Lyndon Greenway, which connects two large parks with smaller parks and bike paths.

No other American city has as many abandoned properties as Detroit. But smaller-scale successes with similar green initiatives have been engineered in places such as Philadelphia and Cleveland.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philly Green



Debris from a home that was torn down is shown in Detroit's Brightmoor area Monday, March 24, 2014, in Detroit. AP

program has converted roughly 10,000 vacant lots over the last two decades, making it the "gold standard," said Joe Schilling, who directs the Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech.

Having a non-governmental organization manage and design the effort, is a huge advantage, Schilling said.

"To use a military meta-

phor, if you go in with your demolition forces and you're trying to get a stronghold in a particular strategic place, you have to be able to stabilize it before you keep moving on in your campaign," he said. "Otherwise, you're going to go back in ... five years and removing all the trash."

An overall "urban greening"

effort for Detroit would be costly, probably requiring money from both public and private sources. Philadelphia benefited from a \$250 million bond issue that included about \$12 million for greening efforts.

Detroit isn't in a financial position to issue bonds while in bankruptcy, Schilling said, but it could find other ways to offer an

"infusion of resources."

The city proposes to tear down as many homes every week as were demolished in all of 2012 in Youngstown, Ohio, another city marred by abandoned buildings because of dwindling population and industry.

Youngstown received many accolades for the plan it launched in 2005 to retool itself into a smaller, greener city. But John Russo, co-author of "Steeltown U.S.A.," a book about Youngstown and co-founder of the Center for Working-Class Studies at Youngstown State University, said the plan "promised much more than it delivered."

The project inflated the number of jobs it created, did "ad-hoc" demolition and "reinforced the types of economic polarization and inequalities that already existed in the area," Russo said.

"What they wound up creating were just islands in a landscape of disinvestments, blight and instability," said Russo, now a visiting professor at the Metropolitan Institute. "If you go to urban gardens three to four years after, they're vacant lots again."

### BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF BUSINESS MEETING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT** the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a business meeting at 9:00 a.m. on April 2, 2014 at the CDA Conference Room, CDA Building, Beach Road, Oleai, to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to the agenda will be available at the meeting for public inspection. Questions regarding the agenda should be referred to Ms. Lillian Tenorio, Esq., who serves as counsel to the Commission's regulatory consultant, at 670-234-7850.

### AGENDA

#### 1. Administrative matters:

- Call to order; approval of agenda; & determination of quorum
- Approval of minutes of the January 27, 2014 business meeting as continued on February 5, 2014
- Commission Procurement Rules

#### 2. Docket 13-01: CUC Electric Division Rate Petition

Proposed order re further proceedings on CUC's request to establish a large commercial customer standby charge.

#### 3. Docket 14-02: Telesource CNMI, Inc.

- Commission counsel's February 27, 2014 opinion regarding Telesource CNMI, Inc.'s designation as a "public utility".
- Proposed order.

#### 4. Other business

#### 5. Public comments



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building  
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220  
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131



## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that there will be a CUC Board meeting on Thursday, April 3, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. at the CUC Conference Room, Room 15, 3rd Floor, Joeten DanDan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

### AGENDA

#### I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda

#### II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Chairman
- Vice-Chairman
- Secretary

#### III. ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE

#### IV. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

#### V. MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

#### VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

#### VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION\*

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

<sup>1</sup> Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



Nation

Some of 90 missing in mudslide may not be found

DARRINGTON, Wash. (AP)—Becky Bach watches and waits, hoping that search crews find her brother and three other relatives who are missing in Washington state’s deadly mudslide.

Doug Massingale waits too, for word about his 4-month-old granddaughter. Searchers were able to identify carpet from the infant’s bedroom, but a log jam stood in the way of a more thorough effort to find little Sanoah Huestis, known as “Snowy.”

With little hope to cling to, family members of the missing are beginning to confront a grim reality: Their loved ones might never be found, remaining entombed forever inside a mountain of mud that is believed to have claimed more than 20 lives.

“It just generates so many questions if they don’t find them,” Bach said. “I’ve never known anybody to die in a natural disaster. Do they issue death certificates?”

Search crews using dogs, bulldozers and their bare hands kept slogging through the mess of broken wood and mud again Wednesday, looking for more bodies or anyone who might



Heavy equipment moves debris on the western edge of the mudslide where it covers Highway 530 Wednesday morning, March 26, 2014, east of Oso, Wash.

still be alive nearly five days after a wall of fast-moving earth destroyed a small rural com-

munity. But authorities have acknowledged they might have to leave some victims buried in the

Death toll rises

At least 16 have been confirmed dead. Rescuers are trying to salvage another eight bodies they believe they have located under rubble of the landslide. More than 100 people are still missing.



Source: The Seattle Times, Los Angeles Times, CNN

debris some 55 miles northeast of Seattle.

Authorities on Wednesday reduced to number of people missing to 90. That number had been fluctuating— at one point reaching as high as 220— but authorities were able to verify that dozens of people once reported missing had been located, Snohomish County Emergency Management Director John Pennington said.

Besides the 90 confirmed missing, authorities are looking

into a list of 35 people who may or may not have been in the area at the time of the slide, Pennington said.

No victims were recovered Wednesday, leaving the official death toll at 16, with an additional eight bodies located but not recovered, he said. Authorities said they expected to update the official toll Thursday morning.

Trying to recover every corpse would be impractical and dangerous.

Charlotte mayor resigns; accused of taking bribes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Charlotte Mayor Patrick Cannon, who has been in office less than six months, resigned Wednesday, just hours after he was arrested and accused of taking more than \$48,000 in bribes from undercover FBI agents posing as businessmen who wanted to do work with North

Carolina’s largest city. Cannon submitted his resignation letter to city manager Ron Carlee and city attorney Bob Hagemann, Charlotte spokesman Keith Richardson said in an email. The 47-year-old Cannon is charged with bribery and public corruption. The Democrat took cash, airline

tickets, a hotel room and the use of a luxury apartment as bribes and solicited more than \$1 million more, according to a criminal complaint from the U.S. Attorney’s office.

Cannon said in his resignation letter that the pending charges “will create too much of a distraction” for the business of

the city to go forward. He said it was effective immediately.

“I regret that I have to take this action, but I believe that it is in the best interest of the City for me to do so,” he said.

Cannon did not respond to telephone messages seeking comment. He had an initial court appearance Wednesday and was released on \$25,000 unsecured bond.

While working with the undercover agents, Cannon touted his close relationship with Republican Gov. Pat McCrory and a trip to the White House to meet with President Barack Obama and other administration officials, according to the complaint.

At one point, an undercover agent said to Cannon: “You’re operating at quite a level Patrick.”

The debris field is about a square mile and 30 to 40 feet deep in places, with a moon-like surface that includes quicksand-like muck, rain-slickened mud and ice. The terrain is difficult to navigate on foot and makes it treacherous or impossible to bring in heavy equipment.

To make matters worse, the pile is laced with other hazards that include fallen trees, propane and septic tanks, twisted vehicles and countless shards of shattered homes.

“We have to get on with our lives at some point,” said Bach, who has spent the past several days in the area in hopes that searchers would find her brother, his wife, her 20-year-old great niece and the young girl’s fiance.

Feds praise verdict against bin Laden son-in-law

NEW YORK (AP)—Osama bin Laden’s son-in-law was convicted Wednesday for his role as al-Qaida’s fiery chief spokesman after 9/11—a verdict prosecutors said vindicated the Obama administration’s strategy of bringing terror suspects to justice in civilian court.



Abu Ghaith

A federal jury deliberated six hours over two days before finding 48-year-old Sulaiman Abu Ghaith guilty of charges that included conspiracy to kill Americans and providing support to al-Qaida.

Abu Ghaith, a Kuwaiti-born imam who married bin Laden’s eldest daughter about five years ago, is the highest-ranking al-Qaida figure brought to trial on U.S. soil since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Prosecutors said he played a leading role in the terror organization’s post-9/11 propaganda videos, in which he and others gloated over the destruction and he warned of a “storm of airplanes” to follow.

He could get life in prison at sentencing Sept. 8.

In a statement, U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said he hopes the verdict brings some comfort to al-Qaida victims.

“He was more than just Osama bin Laden’s propaganda minister,” Bharara said. “Within hours after the devastating 9/11 attacks, Abu Ghaith was using his position in al-Qaida’s homicidal hierarchy to persuade others to pledge themselves to al-Qaida in the cause of murdering more Americans.”

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER  
D'TORRES BUILDING, GARAPAN  
P.O. Box 504340  
SAIPAN, MP 96950  
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
RETIREMENT FUND  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
NICOLAS MAREHAM NEKAI and  
BERNADITA MANGLONA ATALIG  
Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION  
NO.: 13-0111  
  
NOTICE OF  
FORECLOSURE  
SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 18, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right and interests of Defendants in and to the following real property, located in Kagman, Saipan:

Lot No. 002 G 300, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07, the original of which was recorded on May 14, 1990 as Document No. 90-1904 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CNMI.

**1. Date, Time and Place of Sale.** The sale is open to the general public (including the Defendants), and will be held on **Thursday, April 10, 2014**, at the hour of **2:00 p.m.** at the **entrance to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, D'Torres Bldg, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI.** Registration for the auction sale will begin at 1:45 p.m.

**2. Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned reserves the right to change the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, before the auction date and time or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, will be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 10th day of March, 2014.

/s/ MICHELLE W. BREL, Auctioneer  
P.O. Box 504340, Saipan  
Tel: (670) 235-8060  
Fax: (670) 235-8070  
E-mail: michbrel@hotmail.com

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER  
D'TORRES BUILDING, GARAPAN  
P.O. Box 504340  
SAIPAN, MP 96950  
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, INC.,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
vs.  
ALVIN U. HOFSCHEIDER, LOUISE  
CHARLOTTA DELEON GUERRERO  
HOFSCHEIDER, ALEINA D.  
HOFSCHEIDER and CITY TRUST BANK,  
Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 13-0233  
  
SUMMONS

TO : ALVIN U. HOFSCHEIDER and  
LOUISE CHARLOTTA DELEON  
GUERRERO HOFSCHEIDER

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:  
DATED December 17, 2013

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Petitioner,  
Xu Wenping  
  
vs.  
  
Wang Guozhi  
Respondent,

) FCD-DI  
) CIVIL ACTION  
) NO. 13-0475  
  
)  
)  
) SUMMONS FOR  
) PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 504251 CK, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 3rd day of March, 2014.

/s/ Clerk of Court

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
RFP 14-OPA-080

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 09, 2014 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"FINANCIAL AUDITS FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND (NMIRF), WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION (WCC) and GROUP HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE TRUST FUND (GHLITF) OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2013"**

THE AUDIT GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE PUBLIC AUDITOR'S MAIN OFFICE AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, EXCEPT HOLIDAYS.

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MR. ROSS ZAPANTA, ANALYST MANAGER, AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (670) 322-6481/2 OR BY FACSIMILE TO (670) 322-7812.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/s/ MICHAEL PAL CPA  
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

Procurement And Supply  
CNMI Government  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP NO.: RFP14-DPS-085

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 01, 2014 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"PURCHASE, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF AN INTEGRATED BUILDING MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY-BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES"**

The RFP packet will be available on or after March 28, 2014 and may be picked-up at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive, Saipan, during regular working hours.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held on April 15, 2014 at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Department of Public Safety, Conference Room, Susupe, Saipan.

Questions for this RFP may be submitted to Police Officer James R. Rabaulman, Project Manager via e-mail at jrbaulman@dps.gov.mp no later than the close of business April 17, 2014. Responses to questions shall be shared with other proposers and will be sent out no later than the close of business, April 22, 2014.

The CNMI government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if it do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO  
Commissioner of DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director, P&S



Asia

Search for plane suspended due to bad weather

**PERTH, Australia (AP)**—Search operations for possible debris from the downed Malaysia Airlines plane were suspended Thursday due to bad weather, Australian officials said, after the latest satellite images revealed 122 objects floating in the turbulent Indian Ocean.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority said all planes that headed for the search area in the southern Indian Ocean earlier Thursday were now returning to Perth. Ships, too, were leaving the area about 2,500 kilometers (1,550 miles) southwest of Perth that was buffeted by heavy rains and strong winds that brought low clouds and reduced visibility.

Eleven planes and five ships had planned to scour the sea for objects from Flight 370, which vanished early March 8 en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people aboard.

**BEIJING (AP)**—The PowerPoint presentation wasn't enough. The analysis by British investigators that Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 was lost at sea wasn't enough. The relatives of Chinese passengers gathered in a hotel banquet hall on Wednesday were still skeptical—and hostile.

"It's all lies. Not a shred of truth!" said a man who identified himself as Mr. Zhang from the Chinese city of Harbin. He said afterward that he had wanted to pummel everyone giving the presentation—a delegation of Malaysian government and airline officials.

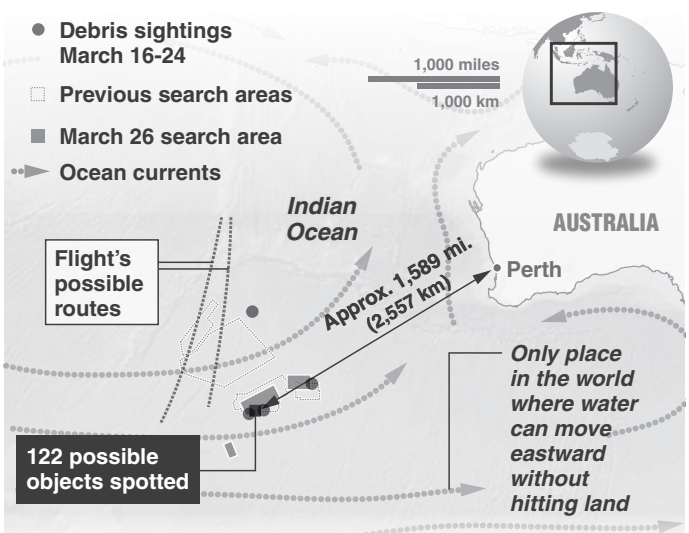
North Korea fires 2 missiles as its rivals meet

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—North Korea test-fired two medium-range ballistic missiles on Wednesday, South Korea and the U.S. said, a defiant challenge to a rare three-way summit of its rivals Seoul, Tokyo and Washington that focused on the North's security threat.

The launch of the Rodong missiles—for the first time since 2009—violates U.N. Security Council resolutions and marks a big escalation from a series of shorter-range rocket launches the North has staged in recent weeks to protest ongoing annual military drills by

A difficult task

*Searching for debris from Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 could prove extremely difficult in the Indian Ocean as the winds and waves are among the strongest and highest in the world.*



An ocean in motion

- Currents change speed, direction day to day; difficult to track drift of debris to original impact point
- At high speed, current becomes unstable and forms eddies; currents pinch off and form smaller circular currents of water
- Eddies can extend as far down as 0.6 mi. (1 km) and as wide as 31 mi. (50 km)

Source: Australian Maritime Safety Authority, ESRI, BBC, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

© 2014 MCT

The officials came to Beijing a day after China demanded more details on how the missing plane was pronounced lost, and after Chinese authorities allowed the relatives to vent frustrations in a rare public march Tuesday to Ma-

aysia's embassy in Beijing to denounce that country's handling of the disappearance.

Search planes have been flying out of Perth for a week, looking without any success for objects spotted in vague satellite images, the latest of which showed 122 objects floating in the ocean.

Finding them would give physical confirmation that the flight had crashed, and allow searchers to narrow the hunt for the wreckage of the plane and its black boxes, which could solve the mystery of why the plane was so far off-course.

Malaysian officials said ear-

lier this week that satellite data confirmed the plane crashed while on a course toward the southern Indian Ocean. Malaysia Airlines on Thursday ran a full-page condolence advertisement with a black background in a major newspaper.

"Our sincerest condolences go out to the loved ones of the 239 passengers, friends and colleagues. Words alone cannot express our enormous sorrow and pain," read the advertisement in the New Straits Times.

The 122 objects captured by a French satellite ranged in size from 1 meter (3 feet) to 23 meters (75 feet). The sighting was called "the most credible lead

that we have" by a top Malaysian official on Wednesday, but the search will now have to wait until the weather improves, echoing the frustration of earlier sweeps that failed to zero in on three objects spotted by satellites in recent days.

With the search in motion, Malaysian officials again sought to assuage the angry relatives of the flight's 153 Chinese passengers. But Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein also expressed exasperation, pointedly saying Chinese families "must also understand that we in Malaysia also lost our loved ones," as did "so many other nations."

Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

Gaming Cage Worker (12)

**Position Summary:** Conduct financial transactions for patrons and guests. Follow all cash desk regulations. Participate in the soft count as required. Ensure that the cash desk float balances during and at the end of shift; reconcile daily summaries of transactions to balance books. Maintain cage security. Maintain confidentiality of customers' transactions. Use cash register or computer to record transactions.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a gaming cage worker or work experience at a gaming establishment cash desk operations or any combination of experience, education and/or training where financial transactions for patrons/guest skills are demonstrated or willing to undergo in-house training. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Surveillance Operator (12)

**Position Summary:** Responsible for video observation of all aspects of the e-gaming/digital lounge operation and the reporting of all irregular or illegal activities.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a surveillance operator or investigator or any combination of experience, education and/or training in video surveillance and/or related investigations into all casino/e-gaming lounge related activities including accounting, gaming machines, change booths, cashiering operations, count rooms, or wagering areas. Knowledge of gaming internal control procedures, CCTV and security management systems. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Security Officer (12)

**Position Summary:** Responsible for the safety and well being of guests and fellow employees and protection of company property. Regularly provides escorts of money and persons in money-handling positions. Patrols all sections of property to identify safety hazards and breaks in security. Enforces all company policies and procedures. Maintains and enforces internal security regulations.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a security or police officer or investigator or any combination of experience, education and/or training in video surveillance and/or related investigations into all e-gaming lounge related activities including accounting, gaming machines, change booths, cashiering operations, count rooms, or wagering areas. Knowledge of gaming internal control procedures, CCTV and security management systems. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Bartender (3)

**Position Summary:** Responsible for operating and maintaining the e-gaming/digital lounge bar during the shift ensuring that the bar, equipment and stock are maintained and cleaned. Ensure that all stock levels are adequate. Mix and serve drinks to patrons, directly or through waitstaff

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 1 year work experience as a bartender. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have in depth knowledge about wines, spirits, cocktails and other drink ingredients. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Cleaner (2)

**Position Summary:** Responsible for cleaning of the gaming floor, lounge and all other areas of the club premises. Maintain the club presenting a clean and presentable appearance.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 1 year work experience as a cleaner preferably in a gaming establishment or hotel. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication skills an advantage.

Driver (2)

**Position Summary:** Responsible for driving company, assigned or courtesy vehicles to transport guests and customers in a safe, efficient and polite manner; arrange to pick up customers or guests on a regular schedule. Liaise with the guest services/marketing supervisor and hotel regarding accommodation and transport of guests and customer.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 year experience working as a driver. Must have a commercial driver's license or equivalent with the ability to drive a commercial bus and courtesy van or car. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form. Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing with excellent communication skills an advantage.

**Compensation:** All positions will be filled and paid at a rate commensurate with qualification, work experience, and ability to perform.

**Job Location:** Saipan and at all offices or e-gaming/digital gaming lounges of the corporation.

**Application:** Applications may be obtained from the Mita Travel, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. The detailed job description & KSA and benefits for each position is available for review by applicants. Deadline for submission of completed applications is Monday, March 31, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

ASIAN BRIEFS

IMF raises PH growth forecast to 6.5 pct

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—The International Monetary Fund on Wednesday raised its 2014 economic growth forecast for the Philippines to 6.5 percent, up from its January projection of 6.3 percent, with typhoon reconstruction expected to boost the economy. It forecasts 2015 growth at 6.5 percent, slightly lower than its 6.6 percent estimate in January. The economy grew 7.2 percent last year despite a string of calamities including Typhoon Haiyan in November, and government has targeted growth of 6.5 to

7.5 percent this year and 7 to 8 percent next year. An IMF statement at the conclusion of regular consultation with economic managers also said the need for easy monetary policies in the Philippines has waned because of a stronger global outlook. Monetary authorities have kept interest rates at record lows to spur credit and spending.

Fire in Chinese lingerie factory kills 11

**BEIJING (AP)**—A fire in a lingerie factory in southern China on Wednesday killed 11 people, authorities said. Guangdong province's emergency manage-

ment department said the fire happened in the early afternoon in a town in Puning county and covered an area of 208 square meters (2,240 square feet). The department said in a statement on its microblog that the cause was being investigated. State media reported that 17 people had been rescued, 15 of whom were injured to varying degrees. China suffers frequent industrial accidents. More than 120 people were killed in a poultry plant fire in the country's northeast in June. That fire was triggered by a short circuit, but investigators found the plant's safety exits were blocked, trapping workers inside.



## World

## Ukraine predicts 'yes' vote in UN on its unity

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)**—Ukraine is predicting that the U.N. General Assembly will adopt a resolution Thursday reaffirming the country's territorial integrity and calling the referendum that led to Russia's annexation of its Crimean Peninsula illegal.

Ukraine's U.N. Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev said in an interview Wednesday with The Associated Press that the resolution has "several dozen" co-sponsors and support from democratic countries around the world—but he wouldn't predict the size of the "yes" vote.

Russia has mounted a campaign against the resolution, claiming the dispute is an East-West issue. Sergeyev said he has been speaking to regional groups and explaining that Russia violated the U.N. Charter that guarantees the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Ukraine and that the country is not a member of any bloc.

Unlike resolutions in the powerful Security Council, resolutions in the 193-member General Assembly cannot be vetoed and are not legally binding, though they do reflect world opinion.

While Ukraine has a lot of sympathy among U.N. members, Russia has a lot of clout and diplomats say there are likely to be a significant number of abstentions.

One diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said between 80 and 90 "yes" votes would send a strong message of opposition to Russia. But that would mean support from less



Participants in a pro-Ukraine rally that called for the nation's territorial integrity carry a map of Ukraine, in the Old Town in Warsaw, Poland, Sunday, March 16, 2014, at the time when residents of Ukraine's strategic Crimean Peninsula were voting on whether to demand greater autonomy or split off and seek to join Russia.

than half the U.N. member states. "The resolution will be voted in favor," Sergeyev said. "But the importance is how deeply the United Nations membership understands the danger of the challenges the United Nations faces these days."

He said Russia's takeover and annexation of Crimea undermines the basic principles of the U.N. Charter and the 1994 Budapest Memorandum under which Russia, the United

States and Britain guaranteed Ukraine's territorial integrity when it surrendered its share of Soviet nuclear arsenals to Moscow after the Soviet Union broke up in 1991.

Crimea has been at the center of Europe's greatest geopolitical crisis since the end of the Cold War. Russian troops took over the Ukrainian peninsula, where Russia's Black Sea fleet is based, and Moscow officially annexed Crimea following a

## Syrian rebels battle deeper into coastal province

**BADROUSIEH, Syria (AP)**—Syrian rebels pressed their offensive deeper into the coastal heartland of President Bashar Assad's Alawite sect on Wednesday, battling government troops backed by warplanes for control of at least two villages in the heavily wooded and mountainous terrain, activists said.

Opposition fighters from several conservative and hard-line Islamic groups, including the al-Qaida-affiliated Nusra Front, launched their assault Friday on the northern stretches of Latakia province along the Turkish frontier. So far, they have seized a border crossing, and also gained control of an outlet to the sea for the first time since Syria's uprising began three years ago.

While modest in terms of territory, those gains have buoyed an armed opposition movement that has suffered a series of recent setbacks on the battlefield. Over the past month, Assad's forces, backed by his allies from the Lebanese Hezbollah

militant group, have captured towns and villages along Syria's border with Lebanon, squeezing the flow of rebel fighters and materiel across the frontier.

A Latakia-based activist who identified himself as Mohammed Abu al-Hassan said rebels were hoping that the offensive in Latakia would draw more Syrian soldiers to the area, relieving some of the pressure on harried opposition fighters elsewhere in the country.

"The thinking is to open a battle that will make the regime rush to fight," Abu al-Hassan said via Skype. "The regime can't imagine losing the sea (of Latakia). They will bring reinforcements, and that will lessen the pressure (elsewhere)."

On Wednesday, rebels were battling government troops in the Latakia villages of Qastal Maaf and Nabaa'in, activists said. Syrian military jets were conducting airstrikes around to try to push back the opposition fighters, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory

for Human Rights.

"So far, it is attacks and retreats, nothing is certain," said Abdurrahman.

Both villages are south of the Armenian Christian town of Kassab and the nearby border crossing, which rebels seized on Sunday.

The Syrian government took a group of reporters Wednesday to the village of Badrousieh, about 15 kilometers (9 miles) south of Kassab and some 3 kilometers from Nabaa'in.

Badrousieh is a picturesque village on a hilltop surrounded by mountains overlooking the sea - a pine wooded area with orange and lemon and olive groves as well. The idyllic scene was broken every few minutes by the roar of outgoing artillery aimed at rebel held areas, followed shortly after by the distant thud as the shells landed.

A field commander told reporters that "terrorist groups" with the "clear support" of the Turkish government attacked Kassab from four fronts.

## Obama looking for kindred spirit in Pope Francis

**ROME (AP)**—They speak the same economic language, focused on inequality and the plight of the underprivileged. One's a spiritual leader; the other a political one. One's popularity is stratospheric. The other, well, not so much.

When President Barack Obama meets Pope Francis on Thursday at the Vatican, the six-year president would not be blamed for seeking some reflected glory from a pope who, one year into his pontificate, is viewed as an agent of change in the Roman Catholic Church.

Obama is the ninth president to make an official visit to the Vatican. His audience marks a change of pace for

the president, who has devoted the past three days of a weeklong, four-country trip to securing European unity against Russia's aggressive posture toward Ukraine.

The pope whom Obama will sit with this time is a different pontiff than the last one to host him. Obama visited Pope Benedict XVI in 2009, a cordial meeting that nevertheless drew attention to the differences between the church and Obama on abortion.

To be sure, the relationship between the Obama administration and the Catholic Church is a fraught one. But in Francis, the White House sees the popular pope and his emphasis on economic disparity as a form

referendum last week.

The upheaval in Crimea is the fallout of months of anti-government protests and outbursts of violence that led to the ouster of Ukraine's pro-Russia president, Viktor Yanukovich, who fled last month.

In trying to counter Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, Sergeyev said he has been telling regional groups that the protests were in response to actions by the Yanukovich government—not the West—and that Ukraine is neither a NATO member nor a European Union member.

"We are a non-bloc country," he said. "What we are looking for in the European Union ... is association for partnership."

The U.N.'s most powerful body, the Security Council, has been blocked from taking any action because Russia has veto power as one of its five permanent members. Even so, the 15-member council has held eight meetings on Ukraine, as Western powers strive to keep up the pressure on Moscow.

of moral validation of the president's economic agenda.

"The pope challenges us. He implores us to remember people, families, the poor," Obama said in an interview with the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* published ahead of his papal visit. "He invites us to stop and reflect on the dignity of man."

Several presidents have found comfort if not allies in the pope.

President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II famously shared an antipathy for the former Soviet Union, Reagan the Cold War warrior and the pope a Polish priest who fought communism in his country and later in Europe.

## WORLD BRIEFS

## Egypt army chief says he will run for president

**CAIRO (AP)**—Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, the Egyptian military chief who last summer removed the elected Islamist president, announced Wednesday that he will run for president in elections expected next month, putting him on an apparent track to lead a nation beleaguered by ongoing turmoil and violence, a broken political order, a dilapidated economy and concerns over the chances for building a democracy. Wearing his military fatigues in a nationally televised speech, el-Sissi announced he was resigning from the armed forces—a required step since only

civilians can run for president. He declared that it was the last time he would wear his uniform because he was stepping down to run president and continue to defend the country. He said he was "answering the demand of a wide range of Egyptians."

## Report: Global executions up 15 percent in 2013

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The number of known executions around the world rose almost 15 percent in 2013, and the United States was among the five countries putting the most people to death, a new report says. The Amnesty Interna-

tional report released Wednesday comes shortly after a stunning decision this week by an Egyptian court to sentence to death 529 alleged supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood after a two-session trial. The London-based rights group has called the action "grotesque." The new report said the 778 judicial executions in 22 countries the group was able to count last year don't include the thousands of people put to death in China, where such information is a state secret. China's foreign ministry referred a question about its executions last year to the justice ministry, which did not respond to phone or fax.



# Off the Wall

## Burger King Baby finds birth mom, feels 'pure joy'

By **MICHAEL RUBINKAM**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman who, as a newborn, was abandoned in the bathroom of a Pennsylvania fast-food restaurant said she has found her birth mother just three weeks after launching a search that garnered worldwide attention, and as her mother prepared to look for her.

Katheryn Deprill, 27, said Tuesday she felt "pure joy" when she met her biological mother for the first time Monday at an attorney's office. And, after she learned the sad details of her conception and abandonment, she said she understood why her mom did what she did.

"She is better than anything I could've ever imagined. She is so sweet and amazing. I'm so happy," said Deprill, who has become known as the Burger King Baby.

The woman had decided about six months ago to launch

her own search for the daughter she gave up.

Deprill began her quest on March 2 by posting on her Facebook page a photo in which she held up a sign that said, "Looking for my birth mother. ... She abandoned me in the Burger King bathroom only hours old, Allentown PA. Please help me find her by sharing my post."

The photo was shared more than 30,000 times by Facebook users around the world, and Deprill's story landed in numerous media outlets. That caught the attention of the woman who abandoned her, and she came forward to attorney John Waldron, who arranged for them to meet.

Deprill said she bears a very strong resemblance to the woman, whose name she wouldn't disclose.

"It looked like I was looking in a mirror," she said.

Deprill, an EMT and mar-

ried mother of three who lives outside Allentown in South Whitehall Township, said she embraced her mother.

"I got the hug that I had wanted for the last 27 years, and that broke the ice," she said. "I asked if I could have it, and she said, 'absolutely,' and just held her arms open, and the rest is history."

The pair met for about four hours and exchanged contact information. Deprill said they plan to meet again.

"We are definitely going to have a relationship," she said.

Deprill declined to address the circumstances of her abandonment, referring those questions to Waldron.

The attorney said the woman said that, as a 16-year-old, she was raped while traveling abroad and became pregnant. The woman said she hid the pregnancy from her parents and, after giving birth in her bedroom, felt she could not

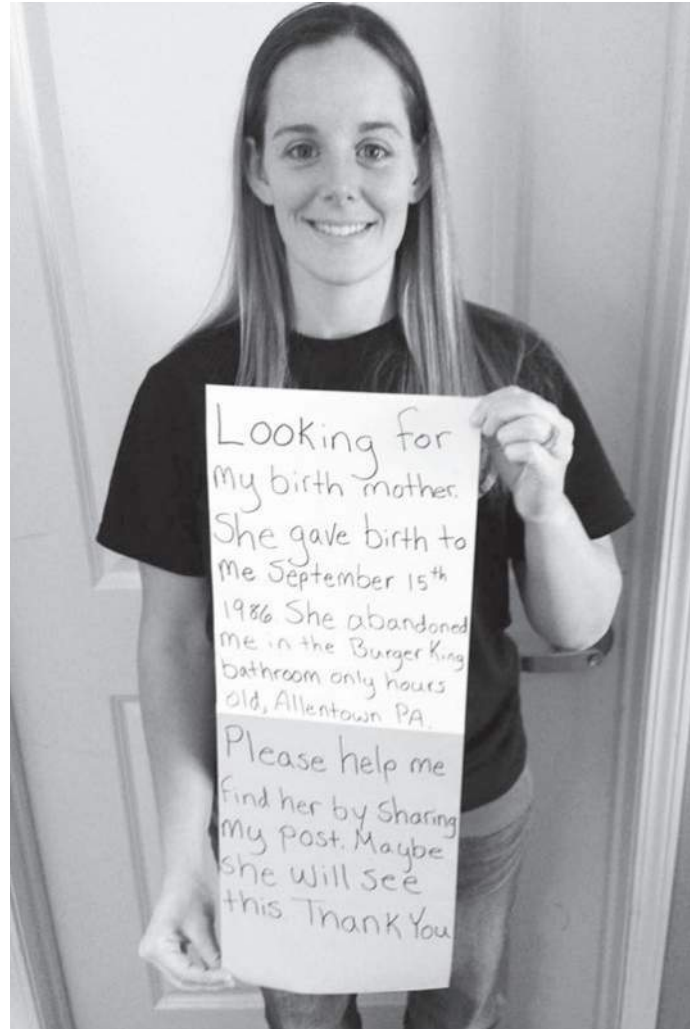
take her newborn to the hospital because she would have to answer questions.

Waldron had his staff prepare for the reunification with flowers, chocolates and boxes of tissues. Deprill, who had launched the search with the blessing and encouragement of her adoptive parents, was accompanied by her adoptive mother and her youngest son, 7-month-old Jackson.

"It was one of the most emotional, joyful, dramatic, exciting things I've ever seen," Waldron said, adding there's no doubt in his mind that his client is Deprill's mother.

"If you sat there for five minutes and heard them and watched them and observed them and looked at them, you would know," he said.

Deprill said her birth mother expressed regret during their tear-filled meeting. She said she forgave her "110 percent, absolutely."



This March 2, 2014 photo provided by Katheryn Deprill that she posted on Facebook, shows her holding a sign that says she is seeking her birth mother.

## Danish zoo defends lion killing after giraffe cull

**COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)**—A Danish zoo on Wednesday defended its decision to kill two aging lions and two cubs, citing the risk of inbreeding and the arrival of a new male.

This week's cull has put the Copenhagen Zoo on the defensive again, a month after it infuriated animal rights activists by killing a healthy giraffe, dissecting it in public and feeding it to the lions.

In a statement, the zoo said it had to put down the lions to make room for the new, nearly 3-year-old male, saying it wouldn't have been accepted

by the pride if the older male—aged 16—were still around.

"Furthermore we couldn't risk that the male lion mated with the old female as she was too old to be mated with again due to the fact that she would have difficulties with birth and parental care of another litter," the zoo said.

The cubs were also put down because they were not old enough to fend for themselves and would have been killed by the new male lion anyway, officials said.

Zoo officials hope the new male and two females born in 2012 will form the nucleus of a

new pride.

They said the culling "may seem harsh, but in nature is necessary to ensure a strong pride of lions with the greatest chance of survival."

In February, the zoo faced protests and even death threats after it killed a 2-year-old giraffe, citing the need to prevent inbreeding.

This time the zoo wasn't planning any public dissection. Still, the deaths drew protests on social media, including an online petition with nearly 50,000 signatures Wednesday calling on the zoo to stop killing healthy animals.

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### San Diego County spelling bee nearly left wordless

**SAN DIEGO (AP)**—David Hay had no words for what was about to happen. And that's sort of important when you're running a spelling bee. Hay was the bee master Tuesday at The 45th Annual U-T San Diego Countywide Spelling Bee, which was halfway through its tense, two-student final round when Hay realized he was about to run out of spelling words. Hay says it hasn't happened in his 33 years as master. His 500-word supply is usually plenty, but the 92 middle-schoolers exhausted them, from "macaroni" to "obnubilate." He had to call a recess and scrounge up some spare words to finish. Allison Grygar won by correctly spelling "prostrate" and "gurgle" when her opponent botched "scrimmage."

#### Camera used on moon landing sold for \$758,489

**VIENNA (AP)**—It was put on auction as a camera that made it to the moon and back. And it had its price—nearly \$760,000. The Hasselblad 500 sold over the weekend is described by Vienna auctioneers Galerie Westlicht as part of the equipment carried by the 1971 Apollo 15 mission, the fourth manned mission to land on the moon. Galerie Westlicht identifies the new owner as Japanese businessman Terukazu Fujisawa. It says the owner of an electronics chain placed his winning bid of 550,000 euros by phone. Bidding started Saturday at 80,000 euros—just over \$110,000. The gallery initially described the Hasselblad as the only camera ever brought back from the moon but later said it was one of several, after some experts questioned that claim.

#### Ireland needs shaggy sheep for 'shearing Olympics'

**DUBLIN (AP)**—Do you own a shaggy sheep? Ireland needs ewes. The Irish require at least 6,000 sheep as hosts of this year's Golden Shears World Championships. But they're more than 1,000 short with just weeks to go before an event dubbed "the Olympics of sheep shearing." Organizers said Monday they need ewes, aged 12 to 14 months, to ensure that all competitors are supplied similarly shaped sheep. Prices for such animals in Ireland are running high, and farmers are under pressure to sell them before the May 22 start of the four-day competition in Gorey, south of Dublin. This year's event features competitors from 38 countries from China to Chile, including defending champion shearer Gavin Mutch of Scotland. Ireland previously hosted the 37-year-old contest in 1998.

## Fifth Death Anniversary



### In Loving Memory of †Monica Cruz Lizama Lovingly known as "Kokang - Leighimwail"

We, the family humbly invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the Fifth Year Death Anniversary of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Daily Masses of intention is being offered at 6:00AM at the San Jose Church in Oleai.

On Sunday, March 30, 2014 Mass will be offered at 7:30AM. Nightly Rosary is being said at 7:00PM at the family residence in San Jose.

On the final day, Tuesday, April 1, 2014, Mass will be celebrated at San Jose Church at 6:00 AM. Rosary will be said at 7:00PM at the family residence.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Joaquin C. Lizama and Children



# Science & Technology

## Facing the Windows XP apocalypse? Here are some options

By BRANDON BAILEY  
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

Are you ready for the “XP Apocalypse” on April 8?

That’s when Microsoft Corp. plans to stop issuing security updates for the aging, but still-popular XP version of its flagship Windows operating system, which by some estimates is still running on nearly one in three personal computers in homes and offices around the world, along with some bank ATMs and other commercial systems.

Security experts say those machines will become significantly more vulnerable to viruses, spyware and other malicious hacks once Microsoft withdraws its support. No one’s predicting a Mayan-style cataclysm, but if you’re still using XP, here are some things to consider.

Security programs can detect and neutralize malware, but they don’t repair vulnerabilities in the underlying operating system, said Gerry Egan, senior director of product management at Symantec, which “strongly recommends” that XP users upgrade to a newer operating system.

Like most software companies, Microsoft issues regular security updates or “patches” for Windows, which it distributes through free downloads as new vulnerabilities are found. It plans to stop doing this for XP, while continuing to release updates for newer Windows versions.

That in itself could create a road map for hackers to attack XP, said Egan, because some vulnerabilities may affect more than one version of Windows. When Microsoft issues a patch for a later version, he predicted, hackers will check to see if they can exploit the

same, unpatched weakness in XP.

Computers running XP “will be an easy target for hackers” and could even be taken over by bots, or automated programs that disguise their malicious nature to infect other PCs running newer operating systems, Ondrej Vlcek, chief operations officer at antivirus maker Avast, said in a recent blog post.

With the April 8 deadline looming, XP users have some options. One is to finally get a new version of Windows.

Microsoft, of course, hopes people will buy the latest version, although Windows 8 has a drastically revamped interface that longtime XP users may find confusing. It also requires more memory and processing power than some older computers can provide.

Windows 7 is a closer cousin to XP, but it was first sold in 2009 and is getting hard to find. Amazon, for example, only sells Windows 7 in a kit that must be installed on a new hard drive or one that’s been wiped completely clean—a tricky process beyond many consumers’ expertise.

Given the cost and trouble of installing a new system, some XP users may opt to just buy a new PC, with modern hardware and software already on board. While many retailers promote the latest models running Windows 8, some stores still have machines with Windows 7. There are also desktops and laptops with rival operating systems from Apple and Google—or, for less money, a tablet or e-reader might suffice.

But for those who really want to keep using XP, experts offer this advice:

First, be sure to use an updated anti-malware program;

some experts recommend using two, since one may find things the other misses. Microsoft Security Essentials is a free anti-malware program that you can download now; you won’t be able to download the XP version after April 8, although Microsoft says it will distribute updates for an unspecified time.

Second, switch to Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox for Web browsing. Both will continue to work with XP and have the latest browser security features. The two most recent versions of Microsoft’s Internet Explorer won’t work with XP, while older versions of Explorer don’t work as well with newer websites.

Finally, stick to trusted websites and avoid using an XP computer for online banking, shopping or anything involving sensitive information. Better still, disconnect from the Internet and just use the computer for word processing, spreadsheets or games that are already installed on your machine.

While those steps may reduce the risk, “our advice is to upgrade,” said Richard Yom, owner of the PC Clinic repair shop in San Jose. Still, he acknowledged, “some people will wait as long as they can.”

### OPTIONS FOR XP USERS

■ If you must keep using XP: Make sure you’ve got updated anti-malware programs, use Chrome or Firefox to browse the Web, and don’t store or transmit sensitive information on your PC. Better still, disconnect from the Internet and only use software that’s already installed.

■ Consider upgrading to Windows 7 or 8, but be advised: Windows 7 is getting harder to find, and older computers may

lack the memory and processing power to support Windows 8.

■ Maybe it’s time to buy a new computer: Check out the new

Windows-based PCs, or maybe a Mac or Chromebook, which use operating systems from Apple and Google. For smaller budgets,

consider a tablet.

SOURCE: San Jose Mercury News reporting


### Science Matters

## System draws 3-D face from DNA

DNA can already tell us an unknown person’s sex and family links, but researchers are beginning to connect genes with facial features and ethnic appearance.


**1 Data from 592 people**

Researchers scanned faces and sampled DNA of people of mixed West African and European ancestry in three locations



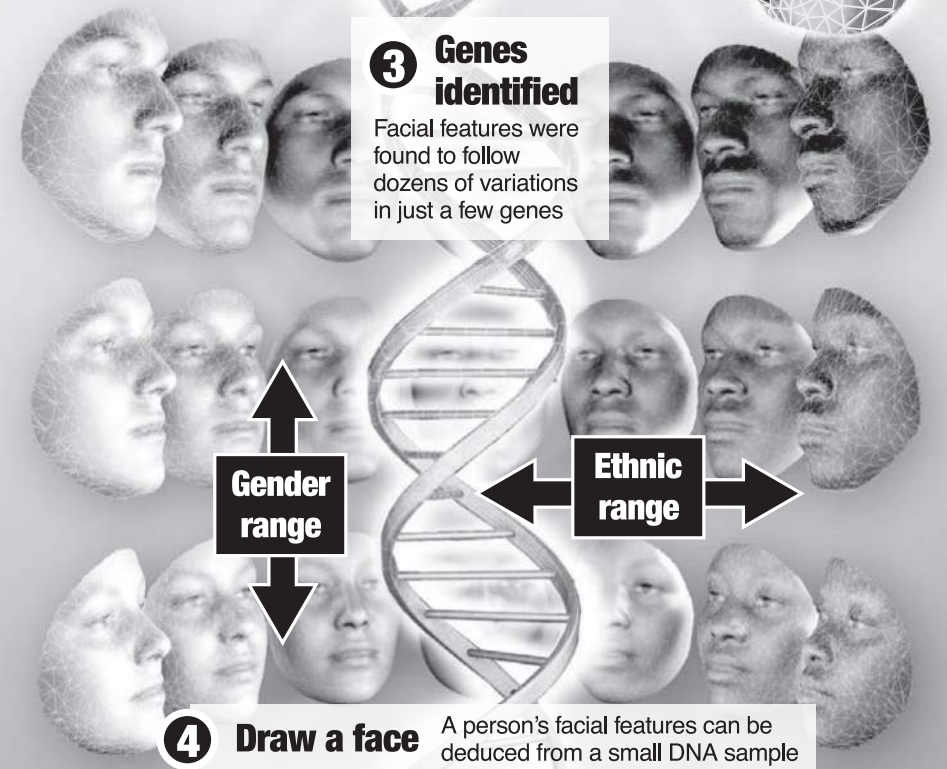
**2 Faces plotted**

Facial images were analyzed, creating a 3-D grid of 7,150 landmarks



**3 Genes identified**

Facial features were found to follow dozens of variations in just a few genes



**4 Draw a face**

A person’s facial features can be deduced from a small DNA sample

**Gender range**

**Ethnic range**

Source: Peter Claes of Medical Imaging Research Center, KU Leuven (Belgium), Mark D. Shriver of Penn State University, PLOS Genetics journal  
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas  
© 2014 MCT

### TECH Q&A

## When iPhones won’t talk to home Wi-Fi

By STEVE ALEXANDER  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

**QUESTION: My girls aren’t able to connect to their grandparents’ home Wi-Fi network with their iPhones. The girls enter the correct password, but never get connected. What can we do?—Joanna Esposto, Blandon, Pa.**

**ANSWER:** When iPhones can’t connect to Wi-Fi networks, the most likely source of the problem is the home network. As a first step, restart the Wi-Fi network by unplugging the Internet modem and the Wi-Fi router (in some cases, both functions are built into a single device). Wait a few minutes, then plug the modem in again. If the router is a separate unit, wait for the lights on the modem to illuminate before plugging in the router.

If that doesn’t work, turn off the iPhones, then restart them. If that still doesn’t solve the problem, trying turning the iPhones’ Wi-Fi off and then on again.

If you still don’t get any results, tap the name of the home network the iPhones are trying to connect to; this will take you to another screen where you should choose “Forget this network.” Then select the home network again and try logging in.

If you’re still not having any luck, check to see if your daughters have given their iPhones network names with apostrophes, such as “Carrie’s iPhone.” If so, delete any apostrophes (go to Settings, then General, and then About to find the “name” box). Try connecting again.

If that doesn’t work, reset the router to its default settings (there’s usually a button for that).

But resetting means you’ll have to re-create the network name and password.

**ADIOS, XP:** More questions about the end of Microsoft’s Windows XP security updates on April 8, which will leave XP machines vulnerable to hackers:

Jean Krocak of New Brighton, Minn. and Jeff Golden of Annandale, Minn., asked if they can safely keep using “XP Mode” on their Windows 7 PCs. XP Mode allows them to use older, XP-compatible software that otherwise wouldn’t work on Windows 7.

The answer is no—Windows XP and Windows 7 XP Mode are the same thing, and neither one will be safe after April 8. Microsoft recommends using XP Mode only when a Windows 7 PC is disconnected from the Internet. (A Windows XP PC would be safe only if never connected to the Internet.)

**Q: I use Windows 7. But will I be vulnerable when I receive emails from friends who are still using Windows XP after April 8?—Nancy Mason, Jacksonville, Fla.**

**A:** Windows 7 isn’t affected by the security threat to Windows XP. But if a friend’s XP PC were taken over by hackers, you might receive more spam email. Compromised PCs are often used to relay spam, and the friend’s PC would have your email address.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com.

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Bargain Shows (I) ★ Pass/Discount Restrictions Apply

**SAIPAN MEGAPLEX 7**  
Near Joeten Superstore in San Jose MP

**CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER [CC,DV] (PG-13)**  
Thu. 8:00 PM

**CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13)**  
Thu. 8:00 PM

**SABOTAGE [CC,DV] (R)**  
Fri. (4:20 PM) 7:25 PM 10:00 PM  
Sat. (12:50 PM) 7:25 PM 10:00 PM  
Sun. (12:50 PM) 4:20 PM 7:25 PM 10:00 PM  
Mon. - Thu. (4:20 PM) 7:25 PM 10:00 PM

**NOAH [CC,DV] (PG-13)**  
Fri. (4:15 PM) 7:15 PM 10:20 PM  
Sat. (11:45 AM) 7:15 PM 10:20 PM  
Sun. (11:45 AM) 4:15 PM 7:15 PM 10:20 PM  
Mon. - Thu. (4:15 PM) 7:15 PM 10:20 PM

**DIVERGENT [CC,DV] (NR)**  
Fri. (4:05 PM) 7:10 PM 10:15 PM  
Sat. (10:40 AM) 7:10 PM 10:15 PM  
Sun. (10:40 AM) 4:05 PM 7:10 PM 10:15 PM  
Mon. - Thu. (4:05 PM) 7:10 PM 10:15 PM

**NEED FOR SPEED [CC,DV] (PG-13)**  
Fri. - Sat. (4:25 PM) 10:25 PM  
Sun. - Thu. (4:25 PM) 10:25 PM

**NEED FOR SPEED 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13)**  
Fri. 7:30 PM  
Sat. - Sun. (10:50 PM) 7:30 PM 10:30 PM  
Mon. - Wed. 7:30 PM

**300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE [CC,DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (4:30 PM) 9:30 PM**  
Sun. - Thu. (4:30 PM) 9:30 PM

**300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE 3D [CC,DV] (R)**  
Fri. 7:00 PM  
Sat. - Sun. (11:00 PM) 7:00 PM 10:00 PM  
Mon. - Thu. 7:00 PM

**MR. PEABODY AND SHERMAN [CC,DV] (PG)**  
Fri. 6:30 PM 9:00 PM  
Sat. (1:30 PM) 6:30 PM 9:00 PM  
Sun. (1:30 PM) 6:30 PM 9:00 PM  
Mon. - Thu. 6:30 PM

**MR. PEABODY AND SHERMAN 3D [CC,DV] (PG)**  
Fri. - Thu. (4:00 PM) 6:30 PM 9:00 PM

**NON-STOP [CC,DV] (PG-13)**  
Fri. (4:10 PM) 7:05 PM 9:50 PM  
Sat. (12:40 PM) 7:05 PM 9:50 PM  
Sun. (12:40 PM) 4:10 PM 7:05 PM 9:50 PM  
Mon. - Wed. (4:10 PM) 7:05 PM 9:50 PM  
Thu. (4:10 PM) 7:05 PM 9:50 PM

Times For 03/28 - 04/03 www.REGmovies.com

**WORLD RESORT**

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

OPEN DATE: **March 28, 2014** POSITION: **Server**  
CLOSE DATE: **April 4, 2014** SALARY: **Minimum**

**Qualifications:**  
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. Friendly personality, willingness to serve and a readily smiling individual highly preferred. Three (3) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: **March 28, 2014** POSITION: **Housekeeping**  
CLOSE DATE: **April 4, 2014** SALARY: **Minimum Wage**

**Qualifications:**  
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in housekeeping or commercial cleaning preferred. Must have a friendly personality and willingness to provide customer service. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: **March 28, 2014** POSITION: **Landscaper**  
CLOSE DATE: **April 4, 2014** SALARY: **Minimum Wage**

**Qualifications:**  
High school graduate or equivalent required. Two years of experience in related field strongly preferred. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: **March 28, 2014** POSITION: **Mechanic & Electrician**  
CLOSE DATE: **April 4, 2014** SALARY: **Negotiable**

**Qualifications:**  
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum of two (2) years of formal mechanical experience or mechanical training is required. Two years of experience in related field strongly preferred. One (1) position of each is currently available.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Team at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266/576.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle/Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office.



# Life & Style

## Paltrow's 'conscious uncoupling' confounds many

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Like any world unto itself, Hollywood has its own lexicon. But Gwyneth Paltrow's use of the term "conscious uncoupling" to describe her breakup with Chris Martin this week had even Hollywood veterans scratching their heads and reaching—metaphorically at least—for a dictionary.

Of course, there was snark, too. And, on the other hand, some real appreciation for the message and the way it was delivered—in a joint post from the actress and her rock-star husband on Paltrow's lifestyle website, goop. (Which—surprise!—crashed from the traffic.)

But before we get to that, let's start with the basics: What the heck does "conscious uncoupling" mean?

"I've never heard it, but it sounds like a phrase used by marriage therapists in Malibu," quipped Janice Min, editor of The Hollywood Reporter.

Pretty close, actually. The term was coined by a Los Angeles therapist and author, Katherine Woodward Thomas, who has created a five-step "Conscious Uncoupling" online process—to "release the trauma of a breakup, reclaim your power and reinvent your life."

Speaking by telephone Wednesday from Costa Rica, where she traveled to write her second book—called, not surprisingly, "Conscious Uncoupling"—Thomas explained that her goal was "to create a map for a couple to consciously complete a relationship—to have an honorable ending."

Thomas said that the assumption that people will have only one lifetime partner—and that



This Jan. 11, 2014 file photo shows actress Gwyneth Paltrow, left, and her husband, singer Chris Martin at the 3rd Annual Sean Penn & Friends Help Haiti Home Gala in Beverly Hills, Calif.

anything else is a failure—comes from a time long ago when the lifespan was much shorter.

"I'm a fan of marriage, but I recognize that most people in their lives will have two to three longtime relationships—which means one to two breakups. And so we need to learn how to do this better," she said.

Thomas said she doesn't know Paltrow, but applauded what she called her and Martin's courage in the way they announced their breakup. "They're modeling this for the world," she said.

Not surprisingly, though, the reference evoked some snark, in Hollywood and across the pond in Britain, where the couple is also based.

"What deluded tosh," headlined a column in The Guardian, using slang for rubbish, or nonsense. (Tosh perhaps, but the phrase actually made it to the House of Lords, Britain's upper chamber of Parliament, where a Labour Party lawmaker referred to a political disagreement over

university fees on Wednesday as "yet another example of the coalition's conscious uncoupling.")

Others, though, were touched by the message—while noting how expertly it was managed from a public relations standpoint, with the news released late on a Tuesday, after the celebrity weeklies had all closed their issues.

"It was very smart," said Min, who is also former editor of US Weekly. "By next week, there will be other news, and they probably won't be on the cover at all." And the fact that the couple made the statement on Paltrow's website gave them, of course, message control.

On the other hand, Min said, "I was touched—it really felt sincere. And it gave us more information than you normally get in these situations—revealing they'd been separated for a while. There was a sincerity here that you rarely see."

Also, Paltrow and Martin, the

Coldplay frontman, have two children—Apple, 9, and Moses, 7—so they have a strong reason to control the message. "No child wants to see news of their parents' breakup on the supermarket shelf," Min noted. "It's clear they love their children."

Longtime Hollywood public relations expert Howard Bragman agreed, applauding the couple for their honesty and civility.

"Listen, I've been involved in a LOT of Hollywood divorces, and I have to say, this is refreshing," said Bragman, who is vice chairman of reputation.com. "You can roll your eyes at the purportedly New Age language, but the broader message is, 'We're gonna do this together.' I give them a lot of credit."

So does Jen Singer, New Jersey mother and mom blogger. Singer found the message especially meaningful because she, herself, went through a divorce last year, and sought her own version of "conscious uncoupling."

### German collector to return 1st looted artwork

**BERLIN (AP)**—A recluse who hoarded a priceless art collection at his homes in Germany and Austria—including works possibly looted from Jewish owners by the Nazis—has for the first time agreed to hand back a piece of art, his representatives said Wednesday.

The unidentified artwork belonged to a trove of some 1,400 works that German police discovered at Cornelius Gurlitt's home in the Munich borough of Schwabing two years ago.

The announcement came as further works of art were discovered hidden at a house belonging to Gurlitt in Salzburg—a trove that Austrian television said included a long-lost painting by Claude Monet.

"We are about to return a work from the Schwabing portion of the collection that is justifiably suspected of being looted art," Christoph Edel, a court-appointed lawyer for the 81-year-old collector, said in a statement. "Discussions with other claimants have been constructive as well, and we expect to be returning additional works in the coming weeks."

Edel said he had been instructed by Gurlitt to return all works found to be Nazi-looted art back to their Jewish owners or heirs.

In a statement sent to The Associated Press late Wednesday, Gurlitt spokesman Stephan Holzinger said recent searches of the Salzburg property where some 60 works of art were previously found now revealed a total of 238 artworks there.

## Medical wake-up call prompts questions about life, marriage

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been married almost four years. Recently I had some medical problems that were my wake-up call. I'm fine now, but I no longer am willing to wait for "someday."

I decided to try some new hobbies, one of which is skydiving. I had said for years I'd never do it because I'm afraid of heights. But I have changed my mind, and for me, this is a big deal.

When I asked my husband what he thought, his response was, "I'm not spending the day just to see you jump out of an airplane." Talk about disappointing!

I have always "gone with the flow" when he has wanted to do something. I know he doesn't want to go skydiving, but all I wanted was his support, and maybe someone to take a video or pictures.

His response has left me wondering about a lot of things. I have had enough of his negativity. He doesn't do anything except stay home. I guess I expected him to be excited for me, or to say he didn't want me doing it. The first is what I would have preferred. Now I'm not sure where I go from here.

DISAPPOINTED IN SAN DIEGO

**DEAR DISAPPOINTED:** I hope you realize this letter isn't about skydiving, but your husband's refusal to help you celebrate your new lease on life.

A successful marriage is one in which a couple ideally grows TOGETHER. If your husband is unwilling or unable to do that, then "where you go from here" is to first ask him if he's willing to talk to a marriage counselor with you. If he's not, then schedule some sessions for yourself with a licensed professional and discuss the circumstances that led to your "wake-up call." It will help you rationally—and unemotionally—decide how best to enjoy this gift of life you have been given.

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** You have addressed cellphone etiquette in your column before, but in this day and age it bears repeating.

We attended a meeting for parents and students last night at our child's high school. Inevitably, a cellphone rang, which can happen to anyone. The ring was quickly silenced.

A few minutes later, another cellphone started ringing. Rather than mute it, the parent answered it and proceeded to have a conversation during the meeting while a school staff person was making a presentation. It wasn't a long conversation, but it wasn't quiet either. The parent was sitting in the back row—he could have easily slipped out to have this "important" conversation.

Thanks for letting me vent. It was extremely annoying and rude. Now I know why his son has no common sense.

ANNOYED IN IOWA

**DEAR ANNOYED:** At most events an announcement is made beforehand that cellphones should be turned off. If there is an interruption, an experienced speaker will pause until the interruption ceases. From your letter, I assume that isn't what happened last night.

Children learn manners and common sense by watching their parents. If consideration for others isn't modeled for them, they don't learn it.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## Relax, Rachel Zoe is not judging your outfit

**NEW YORK (AP)**—If you happen to spot celebrity stylist and designer Rachel Zoe out and about, do not worry. She's not judging you.

The woman responsible for dressing the likes of Jennifer Lawrence, Sofia Vergara and Jennifer Garner swears when she's "off the clock" so to speak, she's not a fashion cop.

"It's funny because I think what people don't understand is that I actually am not judging them and I don't usually notice what people are wearing," said Zoe in a recent interview.

She does, however, get polled by strangers "all the time" looking for a quick style assessment.

"I do get asked sort of, 'What do you think of this dress? Is this jacket OK? Wait, I'm so embarrassed I don't want to meet you right now because of what I'm wearing.' and I'm like, 'Don't be.' Style is the best form of self-expression."

Zoe may not be critiquing but she would like to help people



Zoe

live a more stylish life, in how they dress, entertain or decorate their home. She's compiled a book of tips, information and photos called "Living in Style: Inspiration and Advice for Everyday Glamour" (Grand Central Publishing), which is now in stores.

More than anything, 42-year-old Zoe says she wants to inspire moms to put themselves higher on their to-do lists by taking "five, 10, 15 minutes, however much time you can allow" to "throw some lipstick on, put on a cute jacket, take off your sweatpants."

She is quick to clarify that she's not saying the average woman needs to be dressed to the nines or red carpet-ready to face the world each day.

"I'm not saying put on a cock-

tail dress to go pick up your kids - you know?"

Zoe is a mom to two sons, 3-year-old Skyler and Kaius, born in December.

She understands moms often don't feel they have the time or energy to primp or put thought into their clothing. "It's a very easy trap to fall into. Trust me, I understand it. I remember when I first had Skyler and I looked at (husband) Rodger and said, 'I totally get it now. I'm so tired I can't even imagine that I have to put on makeup and put clothes on right now.' It is a lot to think about because you do put yourself last."

By putting a little effort in, Zoe believes you'll feel better.

"It's not hard and it's not what you think it is. Don't be afraid of it and it doesn't take two hours. It takes five minutes. When you take that extra time you will feel better. You'll want to smile. You'll have more confidence... When you look better you feel better."



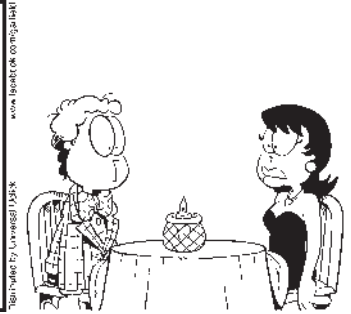
# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

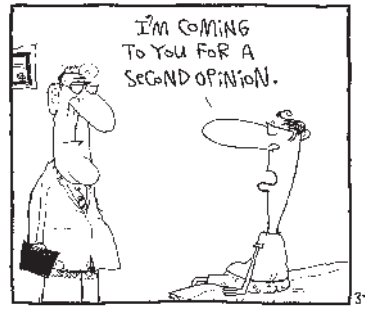
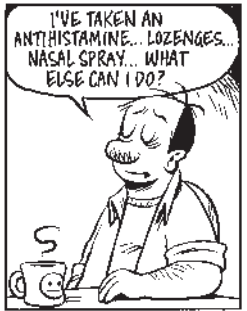


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

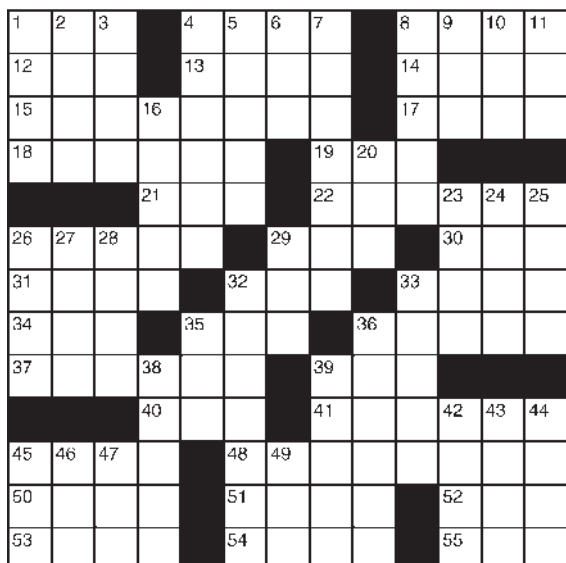
By Eugene Sheffer

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47 Orange  
"Sesame  
Street"  
Muppet  
49 Actress  
Gardner

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 3-28



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Lady Gaga, 28; Julia Stiles, 33; Vince Vaughn, 44; Reba McEntire, 59.

**Happy Birthday:** Heartfelt dialogue and honest communication will be what count this year. Being objective and looking for solutions that don't have hidden downsides will help you reach your goals much faster. You can accomplish and make the changes you desire as long as your approach is a sincere one. Don't hide behind your fear—speak up and follow through. Your numbers are 3, 16, 21, 23, 30, 35, 42.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Not everyone will agree with you, but that is no reason not to voice your opinion. Once you have all the facts, you will be able to make sense of a personal or financial situation that is bothering you. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Make a point to get involved and participate in events that can affect your community. Don't be afraid to speak up and offer original solutions. Express your concerns and expand your ideas to reach a wider audience. Make an impression. \*\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** It won't be easy to think clearly or be realistic when dealing with situations that require co-operation and interaction with others. Emotional blackmail is likely to cloud a decision. Stick to the truth and ask for the same in return. \*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You have more going for you than you realize. Set your goals high and focus on what you

know and do best. Your success will far outweigh any problems caused by someone choosing to go in a different direction. \*\*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Money, contracts and medical issues are likely to surface. Try not to get caught up in what others do or say. False information abounds. Research will reveal that you are better off making a decision based on your own intuition. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Relationships will confuse you. Getting out and interacting with people who can shed light on your situation will help keep you grounded. Emotions could be misleading. Rethink your strategy and plot your next move. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Look for unique ways to change your life. Making new friends or getting involved in a hobby or venture will help you rejuvenate. A special relationship will grow if you are attentive. You'll find a great bargain if you go shopping. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** An unusual interest will help you expand your knowledge and your friendships. Use your creative imagination and you will find solutions to the problems that require your attention. Change isn't always the right choice. Let your intuition guide you. \*\*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Nothing will be as it appears. Double-check any information you receive before getting involved in a joint venture. Keep your money tucked away in a safe place and focus on your home and comfort and making positive changes. \*\*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Moderation and practical applications should be your strategy if you want to come out ahead. Not everyone will agree with your conservative approach, but you have to do what makes you feel comfortable. Don't give in just to avoid an argument. \*\*\*\*



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Changing the way you do a job will turn out well if you follow through. Don't procrastinate when it comes to contracts, negotiations or financial matters. Do the best you can and explore any opportunity that may lead to improvement. \*\*\*



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Keep your thoughts and feelings to yourself. Let your intuition lead you down the path best suited to your needs. Re-evaluate your relationships and consider your options. Attend a reunion and let past experience help you move forward now. \*\*\*

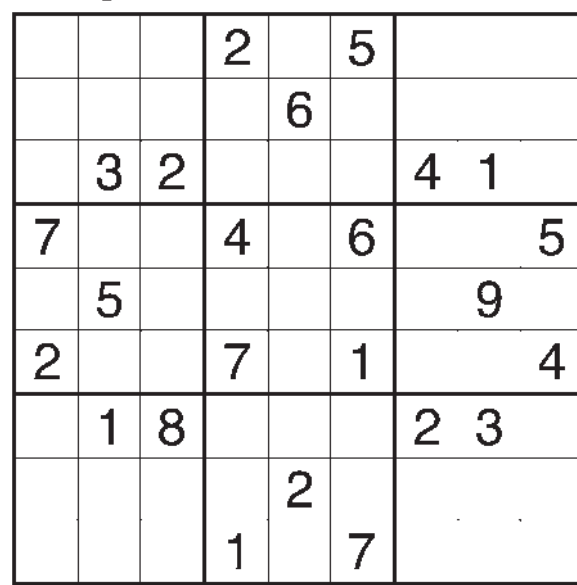


**Birthday Baby:** You are inspiring, strong-willed and helpful. You are comprehensive and caring. Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](http://twitter.com/eugenialast).

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

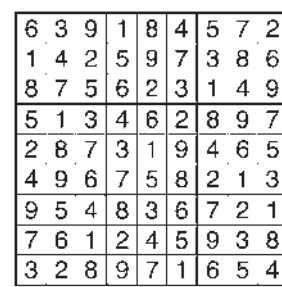


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

3/27

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

EYESHADOW COLORS

Solution: 8 letters



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Apply, Aqua, Black, Blossom, Blue, Bold, Brilliant, Bronze, Brown, Burgundy, Chocolate, Cinnamon, Cool, Copper, Dazzle, Deep, Details, Dramatic, Emerald, Even, Glimmer, Gold, Green, Ivory, Jade, Lilac, Linen, Makeup, Matte, Mauve, Metallic, Mica, Mocha, Opal, Palette, Peach, Pencil, Plum, Powder, Purple, Rose, Shades, Teal, Transparent, Twinkle, Vibrant, White  
Yesterday's Answer: Hangbags

The WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #2 is here! Purchase online at wonderword.universaljclick.com or call 1-800-642-6490. (Contains 100 puzzles.)







# Pacers use rally late to beat Heat, 84-83



**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—Indiana took every shot Miami could muster Wednesday night.

Then the Pacers threw a couple of their own punches—and put the two-time defending champs on the mat.

Paul George scored 23 points, Roy Hibbert added 21 and Indiana rallied from a seven-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat the Heat 84-83, taking a three-game lead over Miami in the chase of the Eastern Conference's top seed.

"They're the champs, they're going to bring out the best in us," said David West, who made a 3-pointer with 50.2 seconds to go. "They bring out the best in anybody. I thought we just had enough fight."

It was one of those rare grudge matches that actually lived up to the billing.

Before the game, the teams chided one another with dueling comments. Afterward, nobody was ready to make up. And in between, the action got downright nasty.

LeBron James needed a cotton swab in his nose to keep playing in the fourth quarter after getting whacked in the face. Dwyane Wade spent the final minute of the game icing his right hamstring.

Pacers center Roy Hibbert finished the game despite taking an elbow to the face that left him so groggy he didn't even remember getting hit.

James and George both wound up taking spills into basket supports, and Lance Stephenson was ejected midway through the fourth quarter after picking up his second technical foul for celebrating a basket. The angry Stephenson waved his hand at the ref and after leaving the court, threw a towel and kicked a door. Coach Frank Vogel was not amused, saying he had a stern talk with his budding star guard before he went home.

But it typified a rugged night for Miami (48-22).

"It is what it is, they ref the game, we play it," James said.

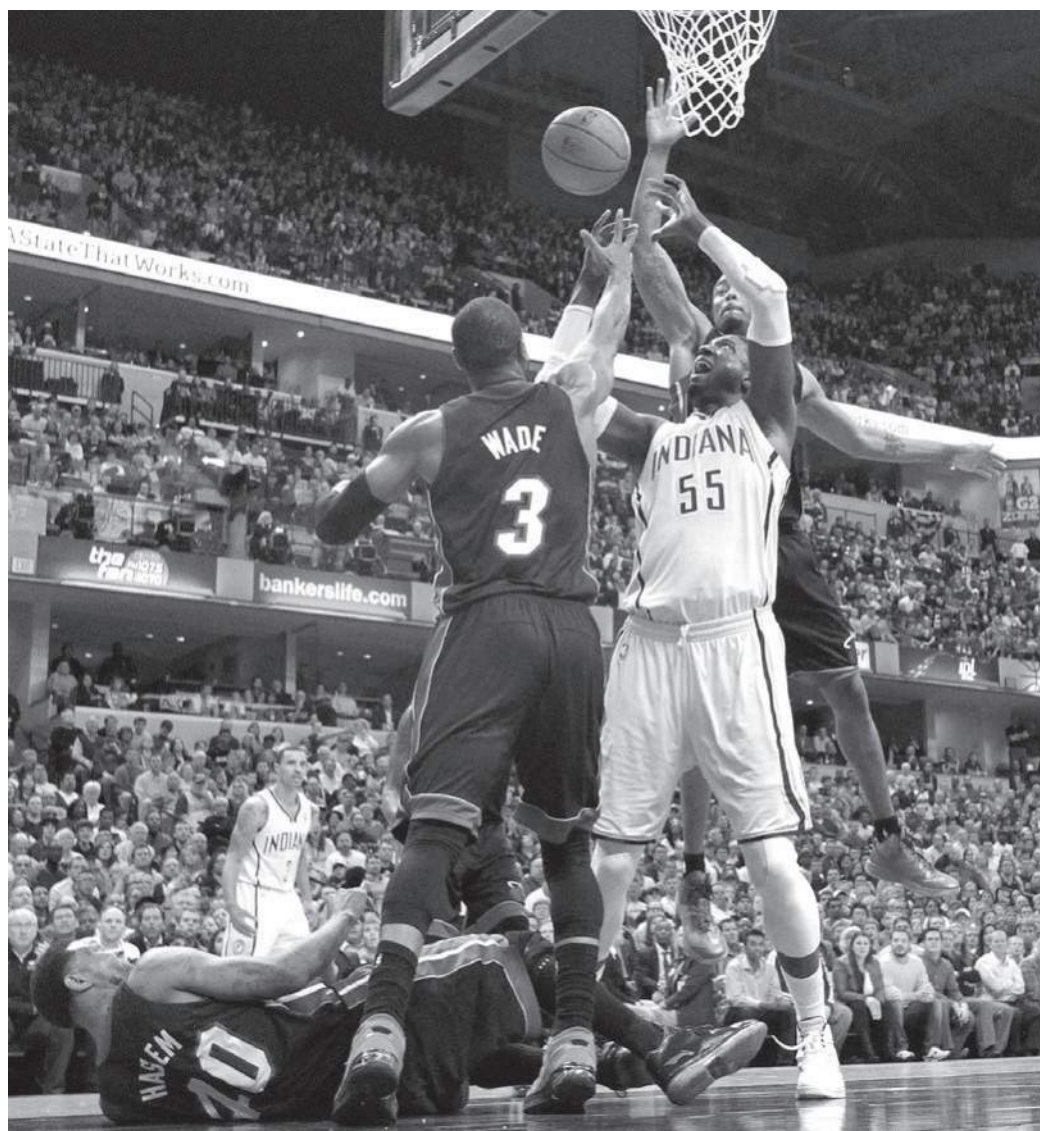
The NBA's best home team ended a two-game losing streak, took a 2-1 lead in the season series and now has the inside track to home-court advantage with just 10 games to play.

And (52-20) Indiana still managed to do all of that on a night James seemed to be at his best.

The four-time MVP finished with 38 points, eight rebounds, five assists, was 9 of 15 from the field and 14 of 15 from the free throw line.

The problem: James also had six turnovers, Wade had six more turnovers and Miami managed only one basket over the final 3 minutes, 23 seconds. James and Bosh both missed late jumpers that would have given Miami the lead, the last an airball by Bosh from just right of the top of the key as time expired.

"Unfortunately, that was what



Indiana Pacers center Roy Hibbert (55) goes for a rebound against Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Wednesday, March 26, 2014.

I diagramed," coach Erik Spoelstra said. "It probably wasn't the best call. It might have been a little too gunslinger on my part. I just wanted an open shot."

They were so hard to come by Wednesday night that James was even called for a flagrant foul when he drove to the basket and sent the 7-foot-2, 290-pound Hibbert crashing to the ground. When Hibbert got up, he stumbled. Eventually he had to leave the court to change his blood-spattered jersey, but he refused to sit against the Heat.

Hibbert dominated the first half yet again, scoring 17 points.

But when the Heat decided to make things tough on Hibbert in the second half, George and his teammates took advantage.

George spurred the first fourth-quarter run with two monster dunks—one over the hand of a trailing James—to get the Pacers back in the game.

Later, it was Evan Turner, the trade deadline acquisition, who delivered two of Indiana's biggest baskets of the night. The first came after James' final turnover, on a breakaway layup. The second came courtesy of Mario Chalmers' turnover out of bounds. When the middle of the court opened up, Turner bolted through a clear path for an 81-80 lead with 90 seconds to go.

"I know how to get my space, I've been doing that forever, you know what I mean?" Turner said, likely adding another spark to a rivalry that needs none. "Some of my moves I've been doing since I was a little kid, so I can walk a pretty fine line when

it comes to that."

After Hibbert made 1 of 2 free throws, Turner scored on the layups, West hit the knock-out 3 and all Miami got was a 3 from Bosh with 2.9 seconds left.

"They're a tough team, psychologically against most teams they have the edge," West said. "They've got the best player in the game. Their pedigree, their entire organization, you understand what you're going to get."

## Spurs 108, Nuggets 103

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 29 points, 13 rebounds and five assists, and San Antonio overcame a fourth-quarter collapse to beat Denver for its 15th straight victory.

Danny Green scored 16 points before leaving with a foot injury early in the second half. Tiago Splitter, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili had 10 points apiece for San Antonio (55-16), which maintained the league's best record.

Aaron Brooks scored 25 points and Kenneth Faried had 24 points, including 15 points in a frenzied final quarter for Denver. Timofey Mozgov added 14 points and 11 rebounds and Quincy Miller had 11 points.

After leading by as many as 24 points and by 20 midway through the third quarter, San Antonio needed Duncan's late heroics to preserve its win streak.

Denver went on a 34-20 run in the final 11 minutes.

## Knicks 107, Kings 99

In Sacramento, California, Car-

melo Anthony scored 36 points, and J.R. Smith added 29 points as New York held off a furious rally to beat Sacramento and move a game closer to a playoff berth.

A night after a lackluster 127-96 loss at the Los Angeles Lakers, the Knicks avoided a monumental collapse to another one of the Western Conference's worst teams. New York led by 24 in the third quarter before Sacramento surged back, and the Knicks needed a scintillating shooting performance from Anthony and Smith to snap a two-game skid.

New York (30-42) is two games behind Atlanta for the final playoff spot in the weak Eastern Conference after the Hawks (31-39) lost 107-83 to Minnesota.

DeMarcus Cousins had 32 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists for the Kings.

## Raptors 99, Celtics 90

In Boston, Terrence Ross scored 24 points, Kyle Lowry 23 as Toronto beat Boston to edge closer to its first playoff berth since 2008.

Terrence Ross scored 24 points and Kyle Lowry 23 as the Toronto Raptors edged closer to their first playoff berth since 2008 with a 99-90 win over the Boston Celtics on Wednesday.

DeMar DeRozan added 20 points for Toronto, which increased its Atlantic Division lead to 2½ games over Brooklyn, which lost in Charlotte. The Raptors can clinch a playoff spot if the New York Knicks lose at Sacramento later Wednesday.

Jared Sullinger led Boston

with 26 points, going 4 of 6 from 3-point range. Boston lost for the seventh time in eight games.

It was Lowry's eighth straight game of 20 or more points and helped the Raptors snap an 11-game losing streak in Boston.

Toronto captured its 19th road win, one off the club record set 2000-01.

## Timberwolves 107, Hawks 83

In Minneapolis, Gorgui Dieng had 15 points and 15 rebounds as Minnesota dealt slumping Atlanta another costly loss.

Corey Brewer and Kevin Martin each scored 18 points and Kevin Love had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Timberwolves. Minnesota scored 32 points off 26 Hawks turnovers and blew the game open in the second half.

Paul Millsap had 12 points and 10 rebounds for Atlanta, which has lost four straight and has the New York Knicks right in their rearview mirror for the eighth and final playoff spot. Jeff Teague, who had averaged more than 23 points over the previous four games, went scoreless for the first time this season on 0-for-5 shooting.

## Grizzlies 91, Jazz 87

In Salt Lake City, Zach Randolph had 22 points and 13 rebounds, while his two free throws with 11 seconds clinched Memphis' come-from-behind win over Utah.

Mike Conley scored 19 points and Marc Gasol added 18 for the Grizzlies, who won for the fifth time in six games and are a season-best 15 games over .500.

Derrick Favors had 22 points and 10 rebounds, Gordon Hayward scored 18 points and Richard Jefferson added 15 for the Jazz, who are 1-5 in their last six home games.

Though Memphis is the team in a tight playoff race, the Jazz exerted extra effort for steals and dove for loose balls and led for most of the contest while playing their starters extended minutes.

The Grizzlies made the key plays down the stretch and made their final 13 free throws to secure the victory.

## Pelicans 98, Clippers 96

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis had 16 points, 13 rebounds and six blocks as under-manned New Orleans beat Los Angeles for its fourth straight win.

Darius Miller capped a 16-point effort with a pair of crucial late jumpers, the last giving New Orleans a 97-92 lead with 47 seconds left.

Anthony Morrow scored 27 points.

Jamal Crawford scored 31 for the Clippers, but narrowly missed a couple late 3-point attempts, including one as time expired that could have won it. Blake Griffin had 21 points but missed a free throw that could have tied it with

10.5 seconds left.

## Suns 99, Wizards 93

In Washington, Goran Dragic and Eric Bledsoe combined to finish with 48 points, 13 assists and 13 rebounds, helping Phoenix beat Washington for its fifth consecutive victory.

The Suns moved into a tie with the Dallas Mavericks for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference. Both clubs are 43-29 with 10 games remaining.

The Suns have won seven of their last eight, coinciding with Bledsoe's return to the starting lineup after missing 2½ months because of knee surgery. He had 23 points, seven assists and six rebounds, and Dragic wound up with 25 points, six assists and seven rebounds.

John Wall led Washington with 29 points and six assists.

## Cavaliers 97, Pistons 96

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Dion Waiters hit a contested baseline jumper at the buzzer to complete a rally that lifted Cleveland over the Detroit.

The Pistons led 82-66 going into the fourth quarter, but once again collapsed down the stretch.

Jarrett Jack hit a 3-pointer to pull the Cavaliers within 96-90 with 2:49 left, and his jump shot made it a 4-point game with 90 seconds to play. After a bad Brandon Jennings miss, Jack drove the lane and hit a floater while being fouled. His free throw made it 96-95 with 53.8 seconds left.

After several Piston misses and timeouts by both teams, Waiters got the ball in the right corner and hit a 19-footer as time expired.

Matt Dellavedova led Cleveland with a career-high 21 points, Waiters had 18 and Jack 17.

Josh Smith scored 24 points for Detroit.

## Bobcats 116, Nets 111, OT

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Al Jefferson scored 35 points and Kemba Walker had a double-double as the Charlotte Bobcats defeated the Brooklyn Nets in overtime for their 10th victory at home in the last 12 games.

Walker had 20 points and 12 assists and Chris Douglas-Roberts had 16 points, including two big jump shots in overtime.

It was Jefferson's 12th 30-point game this season for the Bobcats, who beat the Nets for only the second time in the last 11 meetings.

The win pulled the Bobcats within three games of the Nets, the fifth seed in the Eastern Conference. Charlotte (35-37) has the conference's seventh-best record.

Deron Williams finished with 29 points for Brooklyn, after scoring 18 in the first quarter. Joe Johnson had 18.



# MLB's high-tech replay room opens Sunday



**NEW YORK**  
(AP)—After

deciding close calls on the field since 1876, baseball opens a high-tech control room this weekend where the fates of batters, pitchers, runners and fielders will be decided by umpires up to 2,600 miles away in the building where the Oreo cookie was invented.

Starting with the Los Angeles Dodgers' game at the San Diego Padres on Sunday night, the U.S. opener of the 2014 season, players, managers and fans will turn their attention to the ROC—the Replay Operations Center.

In a dimly lit room of just under 1,000 square feet in the Chelsea Market in Manhattan's Meatpacking District, umpires and technicians will make the decisions that could decide games and championships.

More than \$10 million has been spent wiring the 30 big league ballparks with Fiberlink cable that will transmit the images from at least 12 cameras at every site, and Major League Baseball says it will take just 400 milliseconds for each image to arrive at the command center.

All in an effort to prevent the type of botched calls that cost Detroit's Armando Galarraga a perfect game in 2010.

"I'm happy for the managers," said Joe Torre, an MLB executive vice president overseeing the new system. "Maybe it will keep them from having one or two more sleepless nights if they are able to grab one and overturn it."

Inside the sliding glass doors at the offices of Major League Baseball Advance Media, the room has its own power supply in case of a blackout—with batteries as a second auxiliary—and a stand-alone heating, ventilation and air conditioning system that keeps the temperature at 72 degrees. Cell phones don't have reception.

There are dozens of televisions, more than enough to make it resemble NASA's Mission Control. Outside the room, next to a modernist black sofa, is a 55-inch NEC screen, with another just inside the entrance. Walk in, and there's 65-inch Pentus TV your left.

On each side are three stations, each to be staffed with a technician on the left and a major league umpire on the right. Three more "floater" stations stretch across the back wall.

Every station has four 46-inch screens—three Planars for each pod, with a higher-quality Sony directly in front of each umpire's seat. The umps will wear headsets and can push a button to speak with their colleagues at any stadium.

Fifteen Asus computer monitors are scattered about, four on a wavy table in the center where supervisors will monitor the review umpires and up to 15 simultaneous games (there would only be the maximum if weather delays the action in the eastern half of North America).

The nine circular overhead lights are kept low, the walls are gray and the carpeting is dark—all so that the televised images will stand out more for the umpires. There is a sink and a microwave—the food court on the first floor is filled with dozens of options.

"I'll see more games than the Fan Cave," quipped Justin Klemm, a former minor league umpire and big league fill-in who was hired last month as MLB's director of instant replay.

Baseball ignored replay even as it was first used by the NFL in 1986, the NHL in 1991, the NBA in 2002 and the Little League World Series in 2008.

MLB took a tentative step toward replay in August 2008, when it first used video to decide boundary calls such as home runs at the top of fences or near foul poles.

Torre long opposed video review but changed his mind in October 2012, when umpire Jeff Nelson missed a call on Robinson Cano's two-out tag of Omar

Infante at second base in the AL championship series, calling the runner safe. Detroit went on to win Game 2 and swept the New York Yankees.

"That's when I realized that we certainly can't ignore the technology and the fact that this seemed to be what the people want or think they want," Torre said.

Eight umpires will be assigned to the replay room each week, with generally six on duty for a full schedule and each monitoring two games at a time.

When an umpire has a decision to make, screens for their other game will go dark. If an ump has simultaneous challenges in both games, one will "cascade" to the next pod over.

Baseball established a "clear and convincing" standard for overturning calls. The replay decision will be either the call is confirmed, stands (if there is no conclusive evidence) or is overturned.

Managers get one challenge per game, and if that challenge is successful, they receive a second. If a manager is out of challenges, from the seventh inning on an umpire can call for a replay on his own. In addition, home runs and plate collisions are subject to unlimited review at the discretion of the crew chief.

Baseball hopes it will take no more than an average of 3 minutes for the decision. The average length of a nine-inning game was a record 2:59 last year, according to STATS. Torre said pace-of-game rules will be enforced more strictly.

"In order to make this thing work and not have it make the games longer is the fact that we have to start really disciplining and paying attention to the repeat violators," he said.

Open for replay challenges are force plays, tags plays, fair-foul in the outfield, traps in the outfield, hit batters, re-touching, passing runners, ground-rule doubles, fan interference and home runs (at the

umpires' discretion). Among the excluded decisions are ball-strike calls, check swings, foul tips making contact with the bat, balks, interference and obstruction calls, the neighborhood play at second on double plays, running out of the basepath or runner's lane, tagging up and catches in the infield.

MLB says that among incorrect calls last year were 156 force plays, 60 tags on steals and 76 other tags—totaling 86 percent of all missed decisions.

Torre said he expects more dropped balls during pivots at second base will be called safe rather than forceouts, and that MLB will monitor phone traffic between team replay personnel and dugouts to ensure the video isn't used for sign stealing.

About 75 umpires came to New York for training, and MLB sat down with all managers during spring training and will have a conference call with them this week.

Umpiring's new era has arrived.

## Goodell: Expanded playoffs in 2014 possible



**ORLANDO, Fla.**

(AP)—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell says it's possible the playoffs could expand next season.

Goodell said Wednesday at the spring meetings that "it's not out of the question." He says

he "wouldn't rule it out, but I wouldn't say that's the direction we're heading."

The owners discussed adding two playoff teams to the current 12, one in each conference. The topic is certain to come up when Goodell meets with the players union April 8, and again at the owners' May meeting in Atlanta.

Goodell adds that there was a "tremendous amount of interest in this, possibly even to the point of support." He believes it will make the late-season division and wild-card races even more compelling.

Adding two postseason games also would increase TV revenues.

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**SAIPAN 234-RENT**





# Braves, Enforcers make it two in a row

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Enforcers and the Braves Senior League bagged back-to-back wins against the same teams in the Senior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball.

The Enforcers, who snapped the Red Sox's winning run last Saturday, 16-3, picked up where they left off, downing the latter anew, 10-4, last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The Braves, on the other hand, was pitted against the Fielders and eked out a 4-3 win in their first meeting last Saturday before registering a 6-2 victory in the second outing last Monday.

With the twin wins, the Braves grabbed the top spot from the Red Sox with the former improving to a 7-1 record. The Red Sox fell to a 6-2 slate, but are still assured of a playoff berth, along

with the Jets (7-2), and the Enforcers (5-4). The Fielders (1-7) and the Lions (0-8) are out of contention.

The Braves needed two extra innings to thwart the Fielders in their first duel and leaned on A.J. Evangelista to pull off the close victory. The Braves starting pitcher hit a two-run single at the bottom of the ninth inning for the one-run win.

The match went the distance, as the Braves and Fielders engaged in a deadlock after seven innings, 2-2. J.J. Lifofoi and Logan Martin stole home in the second inning to put the Braves on the board, while Dane Salazar and Ian Agulto scored for the Fielders in the third inning off errors. The Fielders then broke the long standoff at the top of the ninth off J.P. Taitano's RBI single before Evangelista countered with the game-winning hit at the bottom.

In their second duel, the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
A Red Sox runner returns to second base safely during their Senior League game against the Enforcers last Monday in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Braves shut out the Fielders in the first six innings and racked up insurance runs at the bottom of the sixth to make it 2-0.

Lifofoi and Angel Palacios each bagged RBI singles in the sixth inning, while Juan Quitugua scored off a passed ball, and Ian Norita reached off a Fielders miscue to turn a 2-0 lead to a 6-0 advantage, going into the last in-

ning. The Fielders nailed only two runs at the top of the seventh, awarding the Braves another win half an inning earlier.

In the Enforcers' second encounter against the Red Sox, the former scored two homers to frustrate the latter anew. Jeff Dela Cruz blasted a two-run homer at the top of the seventh inning, while Darion Jones came

up with a three-run homer in the sixth inning.

With Jones and Dela Cruz on target, the Enforcers built a 10-1 advantage six innings before the The Red Sox managed to trim the deficit to a decent number after gaining three runs in the last inning.

In the other Senior League game last Monday, the Jets

zoomed past the Lions, 22-2.

It took the Jets only four and a half innings to nail the lopsided win, as they got off to a jackrab-bit start, recording 13 runs at the bottom of the first inning. K.J. Deleon Guerrero went 2-for-2 in the first inning and had three RBIs, while six other Jets batters contributed one RBI each, and five scored two runs apiece.

## Registration for Saipan Marathon extended to April 2

Organizers of the 9th Saipan Marathon on April 19 have extended the registration deadline to 5pm on Wednesday, April 2.

Registration for the 50K and marathon is \$65 for U.S. and CNMI participants and \$55 for half-marathon and 10K participants. Registration will include the awards banquet, a finishers T-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

The race start will take place at Micro Beach at American Memorial Park at 4:30am for

the 50k and the marathon, at 5:45am for the half-marathon, and at 6am for the 10K.

This year the marathon will implement a cut-off time for both the full marathon and 50K.

The cut-off time will be 9am at the half-way point.

All competitors are required to pick up their race packets at the AMP Amphitheatre on April 18, 2014, from 4pm to 6pm without exception.

Entry forms are available at the Marianas Visitors Authority office located along Beach Road in San Jose or on the MVA official website Event Calendar at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com). For more information contact Ed Diaz at the MVA, at 664-3210 or through email at [ediaz@my-marianas.com](mailto:ediaz@my-marianas.com). (MVA)



## LITTLE

From Page 32

after firing four runs apiece in the last two innings. With the win, the Little Legals moved up from 10th sixth place with their 6-4 record. The Falcons (8-1) lead the team standings, followed by the Braves (7-1), IT&E (9-2), Comets I (7-2), McDonald's (6-3), Little Legals (6-4), Hustlers (5-4), Laolao Bay (5-4), IP&E Rockies (4-5), JPO Enforcers (4-4), Red Sox (3-6), Comets II (2-7), Jets (1-7), Ol'Aces (1-8), and the Twins (0-8).

## YANAI

From Page 32

Points were based on how swimmers finished in each race. A first place finish is equivalent to nine points and Ryuto ruled all nine events he competed in (200m individual medley, 50m and 100m breaststroke, 50m backstroke, 50m butterfly, and 50m, 100m and 200m freestyle) to prevail against 17 other swimmers in his age group, while Kaito had the same feat and bested 13 other competitors.

Joining Ryuto in the Top 3 were Saipan Swim Club's Lennozuke Suzuki (58 points) and teammate Juhn Tenorio (43), while another Tsunami Saipan bet, Kenshiro Yanai (41) came in at fourth and Tsunami Guam's Chuckie White (39)

Squads at the bottom half of the teams standings must start getting wins as the Major division is past its half-way mark in the regular season and only the Top 8 teams will advance to the playoffs.

### Falcons 12, Comets I 3

The Falcons regained the upper hand after dominating Comets I in the third game last Monday.

The defending champions racked up four runs apiece in the first three innings to finish off Comets I one inning early. Six of those runs were courtesy of first base-

man Justin Cangco, who had two-run singles each in the first three innings. Angel Iguel also contributed to the Falcons' cause with his RBI singles in the first and second and a sacrifice in the third. The Falcons' three other runs were recorded off two errors from Comets I and Max Pangelinan's RBI single in the second inning.

Pangelinan closed out for the Falcon and earned three quick strikeouts. Arby Yaguel was the Falcons' starting pitcher and allowed only three hits and two earned runs.

rounded out the Top 5.

In the girls 9 to 10 division, Tsunami Saipan had a 1-2 finish with Sophia Gauran gathering 70 points to beat teammate Aika Watanabe (55), while Tsunami Guam's Esabelle Eldridge (44), SSC's Conatu Kaga (44), Tsunami Guam's Risa Hedrix (37), and Coume Kaga (28) completed the Top 5.

In the U8 age group, Tsunami Saipan and SSC split top honors with Nanaka Watanabe winning for the former and Jinnosuke Suzuki delivering for the host club. Jinnosuke pulled off a close win against Tsunami Saipan's Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero after tallying 52 points against the latter's 50. Tsunami Saipan's Hans Xu (39) was ranked third, followed by Mahoben Swim Club's Israel Poppe (27), and SSC's Leo Takahashi

(27), and Taiyo Akimaru (25).

In the girls division, Nanaka Watanabe had a five-point win over teammate Ashley Dangol, who got 49 points, while Manuka Athletics' Club's Sydney Packbier rounded out the Top 3 with her 32 points. Packbier won by just a point against Tsunami Saipan's Kana Suzuki, who also prevailed by only one marker versus fifth place and teammate Natsuki Nagata.

In the girls 11 to 12, Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy finished way ahead of two Tsunami Guam bets. She logged 72 points to beat the 62 and 56 of Samanta Hon and Leilani Koiwa, respectively. Boys champion Jimi Hendrix also won by 10 points against fellow Tsunami Guam member Caleb White, as the former totaled 70 points against the latter's 60. Palau's Noel Keane complet-

### Laolao Bay 13, Comets II 2

Laolao Bay was also active in offense in the first three innings for the early decision against Comets II.

Laolao Bay capitalized on the erratic defense of Comets II to bag four unearned runs in the first inning and four more in the third en route to its fifth win in nine games.

Together with Tommy Agulto's RBI single, Laolao took a 5-1 lead after one complete inning. A sacrifice out from Kobe Deleon Guerrero at the bottom of the first put Comets II on the board. Both teams then had one run each in the second inning

ed the podium finish with hits third-best 59 points.

In the boys 13 to 14, Kaito enjoyed a 13-point winning margin over SSC's Kento Akimaru and Tsunami Guam's Kai Aricayos, who were tied for second with 50 markers apiece. Manhoben's Tanner Poppe rounded the Top 3 with his 55 points. In the girls division, the winner was decided by only two points with Tsunami Guam's Hannah White getting 67 to down the 65 of Manukai's Danielle Atoigue. Mahoben's Amanda Poppe rounded out the Top 3 with her 51 points.

In the girls 15 to 16, only three points separated winner Angel Tan from SSC's Victoria Chentsova. The Tsunami Saipan swimmer notched 66 points to edge the 63 of Chentsova, who slipped past eventual third finisher Angel

with J. P. Celis scoring for Laolao off a Comets II miscue at third base and the latter getting its second run off a wild pitch.

Ahead by only four, 6-2, Laolao Bay set up the easy win via 10-run mercy rule with a seven-run top of the fourth. At the bottom, Comets II must score at least two runs to extend the match, but got none, as its lead-off batter was beaten to first and the second was stranded after Celis got two straight strikeouts. Celis came in for Andres Kalen, who pitched three innings, who allowed no hits, walked five, and struck out three.

De Jesus (62), also of Tsunami Saipan. In the boys division, Tsunami Guam's Jagger Stephens was the runaway champion, as he registered 72 points and defeated Manhoben's Tommy Imazu (53) and teammate Kiego Kitadate (52).

In the 17-and-over age group, Tsunami Guam had a sweep in the girls category with Misaki Iijima (72) thwarting teammate Emma Rione (66) and Allyson Chiu (58). Manhoben's Jessica Jones (51) was the fourth swimmer entered in the group. In the boys division, Tsunami Guam took the Top 4 spots with Kazuki Aricayos leading the race with his 60 markers, followed by Soujyu Usui (60), Alejandro Cruz-Atoigue (56), and Yuya Kitadate (51). Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura completed the field and scored 43 points.

their 26-28, 12-21 loss to the same duo in last year's finals.

In the women's A doubles, Choi and Alma Ortega retained their crown after sweeping Lani Bartolome and Fernandez in last Saturday's title match, 21-18, 21-14. The back-to-back champions nailed last year's championship against Bartolome and Marlene Peraja, 21-8, 18-21, 21-14.

## CARANTO

From Page 32

Francisco in the women's B singles via default.

Meanwhile, the doubles title games were also played over the weekend with five pairs emerging as new champions and only one team keeping its division title.

Chris Hilario, who placed third last year with Brandon Taliania, this time ruled the men's B doubles after partnering with Aries Cordero in downing Jojo Savellano and Narlou Achas, 21-17, 21-16. In the women's division, Windy Fernandez, who also finished third last year with teammate Annette Ta, won the division crown in her second attempt, joining forces with

Obata in defeating Cheng Saturno and So Young in last Friday's title match, 19-21, 22-20, 21-15.

In the women's C doubles, the finale finished after only two games with the youthful tandem of Patricia Abantao and Malasarte prevailing over Roxe Lazaro and Emily Vargas, 21-16, 21-19. In the men's division, A.J. Ortega and Rafael Zapanta won without losing

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	40	31	.563	—
Brooklyn	37	33	.529	2½
New York	30	42	.417	10½
Boston	23	48	.324	17
Philadelphia	15	56	.211	25
Southeast Division				
y-Miami	48	22	.686	—
Washington	36	35	.507	12½
Charlotte	35	37	.486	14
Atlanta	31	39	.443	17
Orlando	20	52	.278	29
Central Division				
y-Indiana	52	20	.722	—
Chicago	40	31	.563	11½
Cleveland	29	44	.397	23½
Detroit	26	45	.366	25½
Milwaukee	13	58	.183	38½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
x-San Antonio	55	16	.775	—
Houston	48	22	.686	6½
Memphis	43	28	.606	12
Dallas	43	29	.597	12½
New Orleans	31	40	.437	24
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	52	19	.732	—
Portland	45	27	.625	7½
Minnesota	35	35	.500	16½
Denver	32	40	.444	20½
Utah	23	49	.319	29½
Pacific Division				
L.A. Clippers	50	22	.694	—
Golden State	44	27	.620	5½
Phoenix	43	29	.597	7
Sacramento	25	46	.352	24½
L.A. Lakers	24	46	.343	25
x-clinched playoff spot y-clinched division				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				



# Perez's hat-trick lifts Tan Holdings past Inter Godfather's

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Sean Perez powered Tan Holdings FC to a 5-3 victory over Inter Godfather's, scoring three runs in the fourth and last game of the 2014 M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Perez got his first goal early with a shot right into the second minute of the game, but Tan Holdings still fell behind after the first half, 1-2. Peter Loken and Masatoshi Otsuka nailed the two goals for Inter Godfather's with the former making the equalizer in the 30th minute and the latter canning the go-ahead a minute before the first 45 minutes of play expired.

A Kwok Pun Wong goal in the early minutes of the second half forced a standoff, which Perez shattered in the 66th minute. Tan Holdings' hold on the lead did not last long, as two minutes later, Ryu Tanzawa lit up the board. However, that was also the last goal for Inter Godfather's, while Tan Holdings drilled back-to-back in a span of three minutes. Ruselle Zapanta



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
It's three Matansa players against one Wild Bill's defenders in this play in the first half of their game in the M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

## Lieto roars for Tigers, leads pitching and strikeouts races

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Tigers' Peter Lieto has so far pitched the most innings in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League and is doing a good job on the mound.

Lieto's innings pitched totaled 17 after the Tigers' 6-4 upset victory over defending champions Tan Holdings Brewers last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield and allowed no runs to keep her 0.00 ERA. He is tied with three others for the top spot in the pitching leaderboard, joining the company of the Yankees' Manny Cabrera (11 innings), the North Starz's Dave Jones (9.2 innings), and the Fielders' Tony Benavente (7 innings). Completing the pitching chart was the Brewers' Vince Cepeda, who has a 0.57 ERA after pitching 15.2 innings and giving up one run.

Cepeda also made it to the strikeouts leaders list, but is behind Lieto, who has 33 so far compared to the latter's 23. Former strikeouts leader Joe Palacios of the Fielders slid to

second with his 24 Ks.

In the batting race, the Brewers' Nokki Saralu retained the top spot, while the Yankees' Jerome Delos Santos made a giant leap, moving from 14th place to second. Saralu hit 10-for-22 after last week's games for a batting average of .455, while Delos Santos holds a .429 average after going 9-for-21. Completing the Top 5 are Fielders' Vince Sablan (8-for-20/.400), the Yankees' Brian Camacho (9-for-25/.360), and the Fielders' Jared Sablan (12-for-34/.353).

Rounding out the batting race are the Tigers' Phil Celis (.350); the Brewers' Tyrone Omar (.350); the Brewers' Anthony Leon Guerrero (.348); the Tigers' Rocco Reyes (.333); the Brewers' Jun Rabauliman (.308), Diego Camacho (.304), and Byron Kaipat (.286), the Yankees' Greg Iskawa (.286); and the Tigers' Tom Guerrero (.286) and Mark Toves (.278).

In the runs category, Omar has 11 so far, ahead by just one against Saralu and the Tigers' Ian Rogolifoi. In the doubles race, the Tigers' Jesse Yam-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Tigers' Peter Lieto takes a breather before throwing a pitch to the Brewers during their second round meeting in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League this month at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

agishi is on top with his four, while three players have three apiece. In the RBIs division,

Saralu has 12 to pace Vince Sablan (8) and the North Starz's Cedric Ada (6).

logged the first one in the 83rd minute to break the tie, while Perez bagged the insurance, as he completed the hat-trick in the 86th minute.

Meanwhile, Korean Football Association on Saipan's Brian Lee also got his offensive game going in the second half of last Sunday's game against Matansa FC, as he fired three goals in their 5-2 triumph.

After neither team scored in the first half, KFAS had a string of three goals in less than a minute with Jun Woo Lee finding the back of the net five minutes into the second half and Brian Lee connecting back-to-back goals in the 52nd and 58th minute.

While KFAS struck three straight times, Matansa fired back only twice and the pair of

goals came in wide gaps. The first goal, courtesy of Anamul Haque, was recorded in the 63rd minute and the second was at the 79th minute mark off Bir Tamang's conversion. Four minutes before Tamang hit the board, Perez completed his hat-trick to keep Tan Holdings' safe distance.

In the two other games last Sunday, Wild Bill's and Sun Palace claimed contrasting wins. Wild Bill's worked out a 2-1 win over Paire FC, while Sun Palace won via default against the Thundercats. Wild Bill's drew one goal each from Jeeraphong Thoensaket and Tanapon Unsa in the eighth and 18th minute, respectively, while Ajani Burrell scored the lone goal for Paire in the 57th minute.



## Tudela tops SGA monthly tourney

Alex Tudela topped the Saipan Golfers Association's March Ace of the Month Tournament after beating 16 other golfers last March 16 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Course.

Tudela actually finished tied with Juan L. Babauta after both finished with identical net scores of 69. The former, however, took the March plum on a complicated scorecard tiebreak as both players finished tied after three handicap holes.

The March tourney winner wound up with the 69 after shooting a gross of 75. The six-handicapper fired a 38 in the front nine and a 37 in the back.

Babauta, for his part, arrived at his 69 after a gross of 80. The 11-handicapper carded a

38 and 42 in the front and back. John "Nani" Cruz completed the Top 3 after turning in a net 70. He came away with a 44 and a 45 to finish with a gross of 89. Cruz sports a handicap of 19.

In the closest to the pin competition, Frances M. Sablan won hole No. 3, Das Krishnan on hole No. 7, Babauta on hole No. 12, and Tudela on hole No. 14.

In the longest drive, Steve Balakrishna and Ed Manibusan were without peer on holes No. 6 and 18, respectively.

SGA will hold its April Ace of the Month Tournament on April 27 at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east course. The tee time will be announced later. (Saipan Tribune)



## SBL Micro Games 'Happy Hour' fundraiser on April 2

Saipan Baseball League will be holding its "Happy Hour" fundraiser on April 2, from 5:30pm to 11pm at the Naked Fish Café in Susupe.

The fundraiser is for the benefit of the CNMI National Baseball Team that will take part in the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.

"Come one, come all. Please

come and help us raise funds to send our baseball team to the Micronesian Games in Pohnpei this summer. *Si yuus maase*, thank you, and *olom-waay* for your support!" said SBL president Rose Igitol.

The "Happy Hour" fundraiser is in collaboration with Budweiser/Aloha Maid, and Naked Fish a lot of prizes will

be given away to the lucky winners of a raffle, which will be going on throughout the night.

Entrance to the "Happy Hour" fundraiser costs \$10 per ticket with one free drink (Budweiser/Budlight/Aloha Maid).

Those interested can purchase tickets from any of the following individuals: Tony

Rogolifoi (285-3966/234-6672), Bernard Cabrera (287-7252), and Igitol (287-1129).

Tickets are also available at the MARPAC office in Gualo Rai (234-7113), the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium (234-6672), KKMP radio station (233-1440), and at Naked Fish Café (235-3474). (Saipan Tribune)





Pacers use rally  
late to beat  
Heat, 84-83

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

MLB's high-tech  
replay room  
opens Sunday

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32 FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Little Legals' Maratita no-hits Hustlers



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Little Legals' Pedro Maratita, seen here batting in an earlier game in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball, threw a no-hitter in their 11-0 win over the Hustlers last Monday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**P**edro Maratita threw a no-hitter to lead the Kagman Little Legals to an 11-0 shutout win over the Hustlers in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Monday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

## Yanai brothers lead high-point winners



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tsunami Saipan's Kaito Yanai jumps from the starting block during the boys 13 to 14's 50m freestyle race in last Saturday's 2014 Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Maratita pitched in five flawless innings and struck out 11 batters. He got two strikeouts apiece in the first four innings and capped his game-long brilliance with a 1-2-3 in the fifth and last inning. With Maratita not allowing even a walk, the Hustlers had only three players going at bat in each of the five innings.



Also standing out for the Little Legals was shortstop Reyson Lisua, who connected on a two-run inside-the-park homer at the top of the fourth and made an RBI single in the fifth. Lisua went 3-for-4 at bat and scored three runs.

The Little Legals secured the early win via 10-run mercy rule

See LITTLE on Page 30

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Siblings Kaito and Ryuto Yanai of Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center are among the high-point winners in the 2014 Saipan Swim Club International Meet held over the weekend at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Ryuto topped the boys 9 to 10 age group, while Kaito larded it over in the 13 to 14 division, as the Yanai siblings collected 72 points apiece from the races held last Friday and Saturday.

See YANAI on Page 30

## Caranto bags first Class A singles title



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jexter Caranto makes a return in an earlier badminton tournament at the TSL Sports Complex. He won the men's A singles crown in the Sun Palace tournament after downing Andreau Galvez in the finals last weekend, 25-23, 14-21, 21-17.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Jexter Caranto won the all-Community Badminton Club finale, outlasting Andreau Galvez in their three-game title match in the men's A singles division of the Sun Palace Hotel Singles

and Doubles Badminton Competition 2014 last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

It was Caranto's first championship in the Class A singles, as he also played in the same event in the inaugural Sun Palace tournament last year, but lost to Galvez in the semifinals, 18-21, 21-18, 19-21. Caranto went on to get even with his fellow CBC player, pulling off a 25-23, 14-21, 21-17 victory in the division finals last weekend.

Joining Caranto on the champions list were Deether Edralin and A.J. Ortega and women's division's Hannah Choi, Toshiko Obata, and Nicole Masarte.

Edralin clinched the men's B singles plum after a 22-20, 21-17 victory over Ezekiel Macario, while Ortega posted a 21-16, 21-18 win against Jeremy Montenejo to take the men's A singles title.

In the women's division, Choi retained the Class A singles crown after sweeping Janelle Pangilinan, 22-20, 21-19, while Malasarte went home with the Class C singles award, following a 21-9, 21-5 rout of Roxe Lazaro. Obata won over Dianne

See CARANTO on Page 30